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U.S. OFFICIALS' 'PERVERTED LOGIC' QUESTIONED

LD091054 Moscow TASS in English 1045 GMT 9 Jan 86

["Problem of Tests and Washington's Declarations" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 9 TASS -- TASS commentator on military matters Vladimir Bogachev writes:

On the eve of the New Year 1986, forty-four American senators -- almost a half of the highest legislative body of the USA -- urged President Reagan to take advantage of the favourable atmosphere following the Geneva summit for resuming talks with the Soviet Union on banning all nuclear weapon tests. Noting the Soviet Union's restraint in the matter of nuclear explosions and its expressed readiness to have such talks without delay, the senators ask the President: Why not see whether some accomodation could be reached?

The U.S. Administration has not yet given any meaningful reply to this question of the American legislators. To judge by Washington's reaction to the Soviet Union's large-scale initiatives, it does not suit Washington to have a resumption of tripartite talks on complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, a moratorium on nuclear explosions or an international system for verifying its observance.

Washington admits that termination of tests would raise a barrier in the way of development of new systems of mass-destruction weapons and improvement of old ones. That is exactly the main thing in the Soviet initiatives resented by the apologists of a "tough policy" towards the countries of the socialist community.

U.S. official representatives say the American side will be ready to negotiate a ban on nuclear explosions only after it completes the modernization of U.S. nuclear weaponry which, they insist, must be tested before this could be done. Meantime the purpose of termination of nuclear weapons testing is to make the arsenals of mass-destruction weapons obsolete and dead by preventing their modernisation and improvement.

Officials in Washington, displaying perverted logic, insist on reaching accomodation with the Soviet Union concerning some "regimentation" of an arms race in space but refuse to discuss in earnest the question of preventing an arms race in space, suggest legalising nuclear explosions and regard a ban on nuclear weapon tests as "premature."

Following its customary practice of using a "double standard", representatives of ultra-right-wing circles divide arms systems into "good" ones which, they say, must be tested, and "bad" which must be reduced. They regard as "stabilising" systems the nuclear armaments of the USA and as "destabilising" the deterrent possessed by the Soviet Union.

The Soviet peace initiatives for banning nuclear explosions have opened before the U.S. Administration realistic opportunities for demonstrating in deeds, and not just in words, the sincerity of its declarations on its desire to make nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete.

Mankind has every right to expect that common sense in Washington would prevail over illusory considerations of military superiority.

WEINBERGER 'SECRET' REPORT UNDERMINES AGREEMENTS

LD081317 Moscow TASS in English 1205 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] New York, January 8 TASS -- TASS correspondent Igor Makurin reports:

U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger has again appeared in the role of one of the main opponents of the normalisation of relations with the Soviet Union and of the establishment of control over arms. THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper reports that the Pentagon chief has sent another secret report to the White House. In the report he suggests taking a number of steps which would undermine the earlier reached and current agreements with the Soviet Union in the field of arms. In particular, by using unfounded accusations levelled at the USSR for alleged violations of international obligations, he insists that the United States should not dismantle two "Poseidon" nuclear-powered submarines after two "Trident" missile-carrying submarines are launched. The newspaper points out that this is obviously in conflict with the SALT-2 Treaty provisions.

Besides, the Pentagon chief recommends that the President replace some "Minuteman-2" single-warhead missiles with "Minuteman-3" missiles which carry three warheads. The United States would thus add multiple-warhead missiles, further exceeding the treaty limit, the newspaper writes.

The U.S. defence secretary also suggests that the United States encode signals sent by missiles during tests to deny the Soviet Union information about the tests. Such information is provided for by the above-mentioned treaty. He also calls for stepping up research on biological and chemical weapons.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, Weinberger's recommendations have given rise to concern even among many administration officials who not without reason regard the step made by him as yet another attempt at destroying the SALT-2 treaty.

SDI DEAL CONFIRMS U.S. GAMBLING ON OLD POLICY

LD061910 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Aleksandr Zholkver "Latest News" program commentary]

[Text] The U.S. McDonnell Douglas aviation concern has announced that it has signed a contract with the Pentagon worth $331.5 million for the development and production of advanced missiles for striking targets in space. The contract is planned to be fulfilled in 1991. Here is a "latest news" commentary. Our political observer Aleksandr Zholkver is at the microphone:

The contract with McDonnell Douglas is one of a great many in the framework of the Washington program for preparing for "star wars." The overall number of U.S. firms attached to this program has already passed 250. Nevertheless the present deal seems noteworthy to me in a whole number of aspects. First, it clearly confirms that in the year that has begun, despite all the peaceloving New Year addresses, Washington is, as before, gambling on the old policy of strength and the arms race. Indeed, everywhere, the United States itself included, people are realizing that a continuation of the implementation of the U.S. military space program is the chief obstacle in the way of curbing this race.

Robert McNamara, who in his time was U.S secretary of defense, formulated this situation in a quite precise way: Either talks with the Soviet Union about disarmament or the siting of weapons in space. To accomplish these two things at the same time is impossible. Further, it is becoming quite clear who in the United States is against the former and in favor of the latter. The latter are those circles whom even President Eisenhower called the military industrial complex of the United States -- some of the largest U.S. concerns and the military top brass which has settled down in the Pentagon. It is they who are in control of enormous -- in truth astronomical sums -- allocated for preparations for "star wars": In the next financial year $2.5 billion, for the 5-year-period at least $26 billion, and in the future trillions rather than thousands of millions are being talked of.

And here I would like to note yet another, the third [as heard] aspect of the deal with McDonnell Douglas. It is calculated to 1991. That is, for the next 5-year-period already -- for a period when, in accordance with the U.S. Constitution, a new master should already be in the White House. But the military-industrial, or the "star" complex as it is now being called, intends, in the words of THE NEW YORK TIMES to tie his [U.S. President] hands, too, so that he is forced to continue along the selfsame path.

Our country, however, proposes to proceed in a different manner down this dangerous, one may say fatal path. We are in favor of this year, which has been declared the Year of Peace by the United Nations turning into a decade of peace, so that mankind enters the 21st century in conditions of peace, trust and cooperation.

TALYZIN PARTICIPATES IN HANOI CEMA SESSION

LD090002 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] In Hanoi today the 37th Session of the CEMA committee for cooperation in the realm of planning work took place. A Soviet delegation led by Comrade Talyzin participated in the session.

EAST BLOC WORKERS HELP BUILD SOVIET PIPELINE

PM090910 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 5 Jan 86 p 3

[Special correspondent A. Polekhin interview with S. Arakelyan, USSR deputy minister of the construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises, under the rubric "Facets of Integration": "Line of Friendship" -- date and place not given]

[Text] The agreement on the participation of Hungarian organizations in building the "Progress" gas pipelines was signed literally on the eve of the New Year. It was the last in a series of agreements governing the fraternal countries' cooperation in laying this major gas pipeline from Yamburg to the USSR's western border. In a conversation with our special correspondent A. Polekhin, S. Arakelyan, USSR deputy minister of the construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises, said:

[Arakelyan] There is an enormous amount of work to do along the entire length of the pipeline. It will be necessary to lay in trenches approximately 3 million metric tons of 1,420-mm pipes. Gas will be pumped to consumers via 40 compressor stations. The pipelines will cut across 160 major and minor rivers, hundreds of roads and railroads, swamps and irrigated areas, and the Urals and the Carpathians. The fraternal countries are building this most complex project along with the Soviet Union. For the first time on the pipeline, whose construction is being financed by all the participants, the compressor stations will be equipped with Soviet equipment -- 25- and 16-megawatt units. Units made in the CSSR under Soviet license will operate only at the Bar and Bogorodchany compressor stations.

[Polekhin] Which sectors of the pipeline will collectives from the fraternal countries be working on?

[Arakelyan] Specialists from the GDR will take over from our construction workers on the territory of Perm Oblast. They will build three compressor stations there: The Novokungurskaya, Gremyachinsk, and Orda stations. In Tambov Oblast they will build the Staroyuryevo compressor station. After completing work on this stretch, the construction workers from the GDR will take part in laying the pipes and building compressor stations at the new Yamburg corridor gas pipelines.

Polish organizations will be working further down the line. Their sector from the Yelets to Grebenkovskaya compressor stations is around 500-km long. All the production projects along the pipeline will be built comprehensively by specialists from the "Energopol" association. They have been instructed to create underground gas storage facilities in this region and on the Kursk-Kiev pipeline section.

Romanian construction workers will be working on yet another stretch. It will be the first time they have participated in such a large-scale integration project. But work on the pipeline is not our Romanian friends' sole contribution. Their teams will also be working on the Karachaganak gas condensate deposits. They will provide facilities at the fields, drill wells, and carry out other work.

At the same deposits Czechoslovak construction workers will assemble a gas preparation installation and build social and consumer projects. Other Czechoslovak teams will lay the pipeline through a new corridor across the Carpathians. The 360 km across this mountain system is a serious test even for the most skillful.

Along with the work on the pipeline, the installation workers from the CSSR will build two compressor stations in Bar and Bogorodchany.

[Polekhin] Which other countries are contributing to the creation of the pipeline?

[Arakelyan] Bulgarian specialists will be taking part in the creation of compressor stations on five stretches [nitki] along the Yamburg corridor in the Novopelymskiy region, together with housing, social, cultural, and consumer projects. As their contribution the Bulgarian envoys will build major underground gas storage facilities in the North Caucasus and other gas industry projects.

The Hungarian envoys will be doing similar work.

The fraternal countries' contribution to the development of our country's oil and gas sectors in the 12th 5-Year Plan is almost eight times greater than in the previous 5-year plan.

[Polekhin] When will work start on the "Progress" gas pipeline?

[Arakelyan] The German and Polish construction workers have indeed already started: Their locations coincide with the section of the pipeline that they are to assimilate. The Czechoslovak and Hungarian teams will start arriving at their workplace in the next few days. We plan to commission the first section of the pipeline to Yelets -- 3,137 km -- by the 4th quarter of 1987. The entire pipeline will be commissioned by the end of 1988. Gas in the new pipeline will reach the border in January.

U.S. NATO ALLIES REJECT BOYCOTT AGAINST LIBYA

LD081134 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 8 Jan 86

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Petr Fedorov]

[Text] The United States has exacerbated the situation in the Mediterranean to an extreme extent. A powerful, offensive fist has been set up off the shores of Libya, to inflict a blow against the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Israel has joined the aggression which is in the offing. A squadron of the Israeli Air Force has been sent to a U.S. aircraft carrier deployed in this region of the Mediterranean. Washington explains the planned aggression by referring to the wish to punish the Libyan terrorists. However, the White House spokesmen are unable to cite even a single fact testifying to Tripoli's complicity in actions of this kind.

Practically all Arab countries, peace-loving states of the globe, announced their solidarity with Libya. Even U.S. allies in the NATO military bloc refuse to participate in Washington's anti-Libyan hysteria. Dispatches from Bonn, Athens, Ottawa, and Bern report that these states do not intend to join the boycott which the White House plans to introduce against Tripoli.

FURTHER ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S BRIEFING

TASS Report

LD081357 Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 8 TASS -- Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR Mikhail Kapitsa at today's briefing at the press centre, the Foreign Ministry of the USSR, was asked the question on the state of Soviet-Japanese relations in connection with the coming visit of the USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Japan. The Soviet Union, he said, has been invariably looking for ways of further improvement of relations with Japan and positively receives the tendencies of changes for the better that appeared there in the recent time. We would wish the visit of the USSR foreign minister to Japan to become an important milestone on this road. We believe that there are vast reserves of developing Soviet-Japanese relations both through political dialogue and through trade and economic links. We hope for a positive result of the visit, Kapitsa stressed.

A correspondent of the Japanese newspaper ASAHI asked the deputy foreign minister of the USSR to comment on the recent statement of the Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger that the Soviet Union is allegedly building up its military presence in the Pacific Basin. To justify its speeded up military preparations, Kapitsa said, the Pentagon all the time resorts to the favourite "hold the thief" tactics. No other person but assistant secretary of defense Richard Armitage has said that U.S. frontiers should extend five thousand miles from its western coast. In other words, in the whole of the Pacific Ocean. And what is then left to such big Pacific powers as the Soviet Union, China or Japan, Indonesia and some other countries with an outlet to the Pacific? The United States has 32 big military bases in Japan and about 40 bases in South Korea, with about a thousand American nuclear warheads deployed there.

The United States is absorbing Micronesian islands for military purposes. As to the Soviet Union, it does not have in the region any military bases on foreign territories.

The Soviet Union, said Kapitsa, welcomes establishment of a nuclear-free zone by states in the South Pacific. It positively appraises the proposal on establishing a nuclear-free zone in South-East Asia, now being discussed. This is prompted by our principled stand towards nuclear-free zones which we welcome wherever they are formed.

Touching upon the Soviet Union's relations with the ASEAN states, Kapitsa said: We agree to closely cooperate both with the whole grouping and separate countries. We intend in real earnest to develop trade relations, to support political contacts, to considerably broaden exchanges in all areas.

A correspondent of the Japanese radio and television NHK Corporation has put this question: Where were the Soviet missiles, dismantled in the European part of the country, moved to? The deputy foreign minister of the USSR answered that the missiles had been dismantled locally, with no transfer to anywhere.

Answering the question on Soviet-Chinese relations, Kapitsa said that much had been done for the development of these relations in many areas over the past three years and a half. This refers, specifically, to trade exchange, economic, scientific, technological and cultural relations. Deputy foreign ministers meet on a regular basis. A meeting of the mixed commission on economic, scientific-technological and trade cooperation at the level of deputy heads of government is to be held in March this year. But there is an area, he said, where we would like to attain greater results -- to have our relations based on some political document. There is no headway in this respect so far.

The Soviet Union does not attach any political strings to further development of relations with China and is confident that it is possible to advance forward in this direction, but by no means to the detriment of the interests of our friends, by no means to the detriment of third countries.

When asked about American threats to Libya, Kapitsa said: We believe that the latest action of the U.S. Administration and Israel towards Libya are a manifestation of the "new globalism" policy. Washington usurps the right to judge whole states. And meanwhile, it is exactly the United States which conducts the policy of state terrorism which is being firmly protested everywhere. We and our friends, Kapitsa stressed, support and will be supporting Libya which is being subjected to such a gross and cynical pressure on the part of the United States.

The USSR keeps a close eye over the situation in the Middle East which remains explosive. The United States should stop supporting the Zionist aggressor. The Soviet Union believes that convocation of an international conference with the participation of all sides concerned is the best way of settlement in the Middle East, Kapitsa said in conclusion.

IZVESTIYA Report

PM081654 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Moscow Press Conference"]

[Text] A press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists devoted to questions of the situation in Southeast Asia was held 8 January at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center.

A statement delivered by M.S. Kapitsa, USSR deputy foreign minister, assessed the situation in Southeast Asia and spelled out the USSR's position on its normalization. It was noted that the maintenance of a seat of tension in the region has a negative influence on the efforts to ensure peace and security in Asia. This undoubtedly does not accord with the interests first and foremost of the peoples of the region themselves. The main source of tension there is the continuing interference in the region's affairs by outside forces whose objective is to impose their will on the region's peoples and whip up confrontation between the Indochinese states and the ASEAN countries. The USSR cannot overlook the completely obvious growth of negative and dangerous manifestations of Washington's policy in Southeast Asia.

In response to journalists' questions the Soviet Union's principled approach to problems relating to the Southeast Asia region was stressed at the press conference. This approach stems from the essence of the USSR's peace-loving foreign policy and its fundamental principles -- the impermissibility of outside interference in states' internal affairs and of the threat and use of armed force and the persistent need to eliminate conflicts by peaceful means through seeking mutually acceptable solutions. This consistent line is embodied in the common, comprehensive approach put forward by the Soviet Union to the problems of ensuring peace and security in Asia. The other well known Soviet initiatives on this score, which retain their force even now, are a concrete manifestation of this.

It was noted that the Soviet Union advocates the development and strengthening of relations of friendship and cooperation with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. This cooperation, as is well known, is not aimed against the interests of other countries. The USSR advocates the organization of equal and stable ties in various spheres with ASEAN members.

The Soviet Union supports the Indochinese countries' constructive line of improving the situation in Southeast Asia and turning it into a zone of peace and stability and deems this line to be just and realistic.

The Indochinese states' recent proposals put forward at the 11th conference of those countries' foreign ministers and first and foremost the announced timetable for the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Cambodia by 1990 create a good political framework for organizing good-neighborly realtions between the Indochinese states and the ASEAN members.

The Soviet Union is prepared to further promote the progress of these efforts in every possible way. The USSR has repeatedly stated its readiness to participate along with the other permanent members of the UN Security Council in guaranteeing any accords which may be reached between the Indochinese countries and ASEAN, whether reached at an international conference on the problems of Southeast Asia -- if one is convened -- or in any other form.

The press conference resolutely rebuffed the recent slanderous allegations by the U.S. defense secretary about the "buildup of Soviet military might in the Pacific." In this connection it was stressed that it is the United States, not the USSR, which has concentrated enormous military forces there, surrounded the Pacific Ocean with an extensive network of military bases, and holds maneuvers with the Japanese and Korean Armed Forces. As for the Soviet Union, its principled policy is aimed at easing tension in that part of the world. The USSR, as is well known, welcomed the call to create a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific. It also supports the idea currently under discussion of creating a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia. This is an organic component of the Soviet Union's overall line of strengthening international peace and security.

Replies were also given to other journalists' questions.

U.S. CONTINUES CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIBYAN JAMAHIRIYAH

Congressman Calls for Sanctions

LD081722 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] An unbridled anti-Libyan campaign is being whipped up in the United States. Lee Hamilton, chairman of the U.S. Congress House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a Democrat from Indiana State, in an ABC TV interview called for an increase in U.S. economic, diplomatic, and political sanctions already in operation against Libya. He expressed the hope that the United States will continue to actively use the military lever for putting pressure on Libya and in particular, the U.S. 6th Fleet which is patrolling off its shores. The congressman knows that Washington's policy on Libya does not have the support of its allies in Western Europe.

Prelude to 'Armed Intervention'

LD081654 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 8 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Speaking at a press conference in the White House, President Reagan announced the imposition of so-called economic and trading sanctions against Libya. He also announced the end of all U.S. trade links with that country. The U.S. President endeavored to justify these discriminatory measures, adopted in violation of the UN Charter and circumventing the Security Council, by citing the struggle against international terrorism. At the press conference, Reagan demanded that all U.S. citizens leave Libya. U.S. observers regard this step as preparation for the armed interventionist operation which the Pentagon has been preparing for over the past few days.

Americans Refuse to Leave Libya

LD082011 Moscow TASS in English 1926 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 8 TASS -- U.S. nationals working in Libya are not going to abide by President Reagan's decree which demands that they leave the country. The American CNN T.V. company reports that the order on the Americans' departure from Libya is an element of Washington's sanctions against that country. Talking to the T.V. company, an American living in Libya characterized the President's demands as absurd. According to him, his compatriots and he are quite happy with the attitude of the Libyan authorities and population to them. Spokesmen for the American community in Libya stressed that Reagan's sanctions against Libya are a clumsy "face-saving" gesture of the administration.

U.S. Seeks Allies' Support

LD082103 Moscow TASS in English 2049 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 8 TASS -- The White House has announced that the United States began consultations with its allies and friends in Western Europe and in the Middle East with a view to getting their support of another series of economic and trade sanctions imposed by Washington against Libya on Tuesday. Judging by statements made by the President's personal spokesman, the consultations boil down to making categorical demands on allies, which are accompanied with open threats of "retribution measures" in case the sanctions are not supported.

The spokesman again recalled that the U.S. citizens who refuse to suspend business contacts with Libya or immediately to leave the territory of that country, are threatened with a ten-year prison term or huge fines. The White House spokesman made it clear that the United States "erserves the right" to resort also to military action against Libya.

White Paper Published

LD082244 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2203 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, 9 January (TASS) -- The U.S. State Department made another contribution to the malicious anti-Libyan campaign that has been unleashed here by publishing on Wednesday a "white paper" with the title "Libya Under Al-Qadhdhafi." Despite official Washington's public preliminary assurances that the publication would at last include proof of Libya's involvement in "international terrorism," the book -- as, or example, the AP agency stresses -- is a collection of old anti-Libyan fabrications and contains no concrete examples. The compilers of this falsification were clearly aiming to intimidate the U.S. allies, trying to force them to join the sanctions against Libya.

U.S. Freezes Libyan Assets

LD090530 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] We have just received a report that the White House has announced another series of discriminatory anti-Libyan measures. President Reagan has issued an executive order in accordance with which the property and investments of the Libyan Government, its various departments, as well as the Central Bank of Libya which are situated in the United States are being seized. Speaking at a press conference in Washington, a State Department spokesman stated that these actions by the United States are not the final answer. We are prepared to examine additional measures as well. Replying to a correspondent's question about whether these measures would include military actions, the State Department spokesman said, "We do not rule out any possibilities."

Sanctions Against Allies Possible

LD090620 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0455 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, 9 Jan (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shalnev reports: The White House announced on Wednesday another series of discriminatory anti-Libyan measures.

President R. Reagan has issued an executive order under which the property and investments of the Libyan Government and its various departments, we well as those of the Central Bank of Libya, which are situated in the United States, are being seized [nakladyvayetsya arest]. A leading representative of the administration believes that these amount to hundreds of millions of dollars. The seizure also covers those investments which are held in foreign departments of U.S. banks. The executive order has come into immediate effect. The spokesman admitted that the present action is on par with that which the J. Carter administration took against the Government of Iran in connection with the seizure of the U.S. hostages in Tehran in 1979-81.

Meanwhile, the United States has begun a process of intensive "consultations with its allies and friends in Western Europe and the Near East" in order to effect Libya's "economic and political isolation". Judging by the pronouncements of the President's personal representative, the consultations in point of fact boil down to demands to the allies for unconditional support for those sanctions announced by Washington.

The demands are being accompanied by unconcealed threats of "punishment" for those who refuse to submit to these demands. The President's representative made it clear that in this instance the White House has the possibility of various measures including the imposition of sanctions against those companies in allied countries who continue to develop business ties with Libya. In order to urge the allies to support the anti-Libyan measures, the administration came out with another falsification (?on Wednesday). The State Department has urgently issued a prepared collection of "documents" which purport to prove Libya's "involvement" in international terrorism. But there has been some confusion: contrary to assurances from President Reagan himself that the U.S. has "irrefutable proof", the collection has turned out, essentially, to be a rehash of old and oft-refuted fabrications.

Canada Joins U.S. Sanctions

LD090741 Moscow TASS in English 0706 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Ottawa, January 9 TASS -- The Reagan administration is exerting pressure on Canada to make it join trade and economic sanctions against Libya which were announced by President Reagan. Minister of Foreign Affairs Clark has admitted that Canada's Government received from Washington a list of measures which the United States recommends that its allies should take against Libya. Judging by the minister's pronouncements, the Canadian Government has yielded to the Reagan administration's pressure. As is reported by the Canadian press, Clark said that Canada had already taken certain steps recommended by the Americans, and the question of other measures is being considered.

'Massive Pressure' Continues

LD091024 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Washington continues to exert massive pressure on Libya. As President Reagan has announced, the property and money deposits of the Libyan Government in the United States are to be arrested. Earlier, Washington suspended trade contacts with that country. The United States Administration is pressuring its allies into joining the sanctions, although they have expressed their opposition to the anti-Libyan measures.

Meanwhile, as correspondents report, Libya remains under the threat of U.S. aggression. A spokesman for the State Department has made it clear that the United States is ready to resort to a military action. The United States has concentrated dozens of military ships, led by the aircraft carrier "Coral Sea," in the vicinity of Libyan shores. The Libyan delegate has voiced concern over the situation around his country to the United Nations secretary general. The Libyan news agency JANA says the United States' threats and sanctions won't intimidate the people of the country. At a press conference in Moscow [on 8 January] Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa has qualified the events around Libya as a vivid example of the American policy of so-called new globalism. This is a policy of brigandage, the Soviet official stressed, and we shall support Libya, a target of crude pressure from the United States.

Soviet Youth Demand Halt

LD081832 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 8 TASS -- Soviet youth and students expressing solidarity with the Libyan people that courageously upholds its national sovereignty, resolutely demand an end to a campaign of provocations and threats against that Arab country. This is said in a statement of the Central Committee of the Soviet Komsomol and the Committee of Youth Organisations of the USSR.

The actions of the United States and Israel confirm again that it is precisely the Washington administration and Tel Aviv's Zionist ruling circles that made terrorism state policy, using it against those countries and peoples that are not to their liking, against liberation movements in the Middle East, in Asia, Africa, Central America.

COMMENTATORS EXAMINE IMPLICATIONS OF U.S. ACTIONS

Facts 'Turned Upside Down'

PM081604 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 9 Jan 86 First Edition p 3

[Article by Anatoliy Andreyevich Gromyko, director of the Africa Institute and corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences: "Familiar Scenario" -- first three paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] The following TASS report has just reached the editorial bureau:

The U.S. President has reported the introduction of "sanctions" against Libya. He demanded that all U.S. citizens leave Libya. This step is seen by U.S. observers as preparation for armed interventionist action, for which the Pentagon has recently been feverishly preparing. We asked Anatoliy Andreyevich Gromyko, director of the Africa Institute and corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, to comment on the report.

The Soviet and foreign press is full of reports of this kind today. This is no mere coincidence. The international public is profoundly concerned at the growth of tension in the Mediterranean area, where the United States along with Israel, it seems, is preparing another act of armed aggression against a sovereign state.

The reasons spurring the capitalist world's main gendarme into adventurist actions within the framework of the policy of state terrorism against the Libyan Jamahiriyah are well-known. The consistent anti-imperialist course that the North African country pursues in the interests not only of the Libyan people, but of all Arabs has become an insurmountable obstacle for the United States and its Zionist sidekick in the way of establishing their dominance in the world's oil region. That is why overthrowing the legal government headed by M. al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, has turned into a cherished dream for U.S. imperialism.

From the very moment the republic was formed U.S. policy has been aimed at destabilizing the situation in the country. The methods used have varied extensively from economic blackades to preparations for assassinating the leaders of the Libyan revolution.

News about this leaked into the press and became common knowledge. The State Department, the Pentagon, and the CIA have long since ceased denying their participation in attempts to physically destroy M. al-Qadhdhafi or in the military provocations against Libya by U.S. Armed Forces deployed in the Mediterranean. But last November a scandal broke in the United States. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the White House approved a plan by the CIA aimed at undermining Libya's independence. The news was confirmed and Washington quietened down.

The slight shock passed and now a new version of the record with a strikingly familiar scenario is being played out before our eyes. To a hail of unfounded accusations against Libya alleging its complicity in the Vienna and Rome airport tragedies, the United States has concentrated around 40 warships within direct strike range off the Libyan coast, and that is by no means all. Mediterranean bases have been put on combat alert, a detailed list of prime targets on Libyan territory has been drawn up, and additional squadrons of warplans have been sent to the region.

But today the actions of the U.S. military do not merely smack of military blackmail. The unbridled hysteria unleashed by the Western mass media around Libya is aimed at whitewashing the armed interference in its internal affairs being prepared by the United States and at turning the wolf of international violence into a lamb shackled in modern armor to defend the West from notorious "terrorism."

As in the past, everything is being turned upside down. For a complete analogy it only lacks a "killing of the German ambassador," an "act of sabotage at a radio station" somewhere on U.S. territory, or an attack on a naval armada, this time in the Gulf of Sidra rather than Tonkin or something similar.

Unbridled U.S. militarist circles are clearly pushing the Washington administration into a new adventure. But the Libyan people cannot be scared. In response to the extremely dangerous game undertaken by the United States they are prepared to use all means to defend their motherland. That is what M. al-Qadhdhafi stated in his interview with U.S. journalists.

U.S. Applying 'Lynch Law'

PM081626 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report under general heading "United States-Libya: Policy of Threats and Sanctions": "Exacerbating the Situation"]

[Text] During a press conference broadcast on U.S. television Tuesday evening U.S. President R. Reagan announced the imposition of economic sanctions against Libya.

REUTERS reports that Washington is severing all economic ties with Libya and is imposing an embargo on exports and imports. The President requested that all U.S. citizens leave Libya (there are about 1,500 of them there).

REUTERS notes the U.S. sanctions will hardly be detrimental to Libya, whose economic relations with the United States have in practice been reduced to a minimum. Specifically, exports of Libyan oil to the United States, which stood at $5.3 billion in 1981, do not exceed $36.5 million at present.

The U.S. President made it clear that additional steps may be taken if the sanctions he has imposed prove to be inadequate. Political observers note this can be taken to mean military interference in the affairs of the sovereign Arab state.

Washington has insistently called on its allies to join in sanctions against Libya, but this appeal has not met with the response desired by the White House. The press notes that Italy, the FRG, and France have no intention of introducing any discriminatory measures against Libya on Washington's instructions and maintain broad trade and economic ties with Libya.

Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Graz declared in particular that there is no proof at all of Libyan complicity in the 27 December incident at Vienna airport.

Washington, however, has not bothered to seek proof against Libya. Having accused that country of committing terrorist acts, moved major naval forces close to its coast, and declared economic war on Libya within a matter of hours, the United States is using base means in an attempt to attain a long-cherished goal -- to eliminate a regime deemed unsuitable by Washington in the Mediterranean, which is strategically important for the United States.

The furious anti-Libyan campaign unleashed by the White House could give East Europeans the impression that Libya is "guilty" of something. Both Washington's attempt to take unsanctioned action [vershit samosud] against Libya and public lynch law does not meet with understanding among Western politicians.

'Military Blackmail' Used

LD081754 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Text] The United States Administration has decided to toughen economic and other measures against Libya. A commentary written by Yuriy Solton of Radio Moscow:

This announcement was accompanied with crude threats against the Libyan leadership. Washington declared that if it found it necessary it could take other steps to punish Libya. The threats are backed with concrete actions. An American naval force of about 40 ships have been drawn to Libyan shores. Squadrons of combat planes have been alerted based on the Coral Sea aircraft carrier and on NATO bases in Europe. One-thousand eight hundred marines are ready to land in Libya and Isreal, (?a) United States client, has been drawn into the possible military operations.

Justifying their preparations the United States authorities accuse Libya of being involved in the terrorist acts in the Vienna and Rome airports. These are hollow accusations with no actual proof given. But there is no need for any special proof to describe the actions of the United States itself for what they are. How else can one call the policy of a state that as much as blacklists a sovereign country that doesn't suit it and determines for that country measures of so-called punishment up to the toppling of a lawful government? There is only one definition for such a policy -- government-sponsored terrorism.

It is such terrorism that also gives rise to individual acts of terror, causing the death of innocent people. The United States blacklisted Libya a long time ago for its firm anti-imperialist line, for its active participation in the struggle against the actions of the United States and Israel in the Middle East. On numerous occasions, using blackmail and violence, Washington has tried to compel Libya to change its independent foreign policy. But each attempt has failed.

In November last year the White House endorsed a secret plan to destablize the situation in Libya and to assassinate its leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The plan became public knowledge. Only this publicity, as analysts believe, has prevented action on the plan. But Washington has obviously failed to give it up and that's confirmed by the current anti-Libyan campaign. The United States would like to draw its allies into this adventure. It urges them to display Atlantic solidarity and by a joint effort to as much as isolate Libya. But rather looks like the United States itself is in isolation in this case. With the exception of Isreal, no country is willing to take part in unlawful actions against Libya.

The United States' allies don't simply fear to sustain considerable economic damage in case of a break of relations with Libya. There is realization even in the NATO capitals that the United States perpetrates arbitrary actions, crudely violates international law, and steers towards a serious escalation of tensions in the Mediterranean area. The Soviet public is firmly against the American military blackmail of sovereign Libya.

That stand is not only due to the fact that there are close and durable relations between the USSR and Libya said the Moscow-based newspaper IZVESTIYA; being a Black Sea power this country has a vital interest in the maintenance of peace in the Mediterranean area.

IZVESTIYA adds that the Soviet Union proceeds from the conviction that in this particular region and elsewhere around the world all the problems, all the situations that carry the threat of conflict, should be settled peacefully, by political means.

'Irresponsible Policy'

LD081412 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1307 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Commentary by political observer Boris Shabayev: "On the U.S. Economic Sanctions Against Libya -- an Irresponsbile Policy"]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan (TASS) -- The U.S. President has announced fresh economic sanctions against Libya on the grounds of its involvement, allegedly "convincingly confirmed by documentation," in "terrorism." Evidently, it is thought in the White House that the stream of unbridled abuse and shameless accusations that U.S. Administration officials, are pouring on this Arab country every day and which the U.S. mass media echoes, is quite sufficient "documentation." After all, Washington has not made public any facts or real evidence of such "involvement," for the simple reason that no such thing exists. The Libyan Government has quite definitely and seriously condemned the terrorist acts perpetrated in Rome and Vienna and has stated that Libya has nothing at all to do with the persons or groups who may have been behind them.

All of Washington's actions show, however, that it is not concerned with explaining the factual side of the matter and is even less concerned with a real struggle against terrorism. The anti-Libyan hysteria and the practical measures adopted by the U.S. Administration convincingly prove only one thing: Someone on the other side of the ocean needs and benefits from disorganizing international relations and stepping up tension in the already red hot area. Who? The forces in and around the administration who get into a rage and completely lose any sense of reality at the very thought that someone in this world wants to live and exist according to his own views and not by the standards and order of Uncle Sam.

The new presidential sanctions against Libya themselves actually change nothing because Washington long ago reduced U.S.-Libyan economic contacts to nothing. The new point here dwells in the fact that the United States is first of all striving at any cost to draw its allies into its anti-Libyan actions, thus adding, by this global character, to its adventurist policy. Second, the introduction of economic sanctions far from exclude the possibility of U.S. military aggression. The unconcealed threat of the use of force is contained in the speech of the U.S. President himself, backed up by the appeal for all Americans in Libya to leave that country immediately.

Many of the U.S. NATO allies are in no hurry to hitch themselves to the wagon of the U.S. policy of "neoglobalism" and are refraining from supporting the White House's anti-Libyan actions. On the other hand, U.S. friends such as Israel and the Republic of South Africa have become noticeably animated. Citing specialists in the Pentagon, CBS television reported that the Isreali Air Force, on the same pretext of the "fight against terrorism," plans a raid on the territory of the Yemen Arab Republic, to which end it is already "sounding out" the Saudi Arabian air defense system along the route of the forthcoming flight. While the Pretorian racists, seizing upon the same pretext, are, according to BBC reports, stepping up tension in southern Africa and are readying fresh "punitive raids" against neighboring states.

Behind the worn-out shield of the "fight against terrorism," the United States is therefore not only itself practising a policy of state terrorism on a broad scale, but is also encouraging its fellow-thinkers in Tel Aviv and Pretoria to fresh bandit actions. It would be difficult to imagine a more irresponsible policy at a time when the vital interests of the whole world community demand the adoption of urgent measures for radical improvement of the international situation.

'Rabid Anti-Libyan Thrust'

PM081246 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 7 Jan 86 p 3

[A. Mozgovoy Commentary: "Gamble on 'Black Aces'"]

[Text] The aircraft carrier Coral Sea of the U.S. 6th Fleet accompanied by escort ships has approached the Libyan Coast. A U.S. squadron intends to hold maneuvers there. These exercises will be of an overtly provocative nature. Moreover, the possibility that USAF aircraft will inflict strikes against the territory of the Libyan Jamahiriyah has not been ruled out. According to U.S. press reports Pentagon subversion units have been specifically tasked with destroying targets in Tripoli and other cities of this Arab country and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff have drawn up "several scenarios for attacking" the Mediterranean republic.

Washington has long been looking for an excuse to unleash aggression against Libya. Tripoli's consistent anti-imperialist course is not to its liking. Libya's ever increasing influence in the Arab world also annoys transatlantic figures. In other words, the country's policy is frustrating U.S. plans to subordinate the Mediterranean Arab states to U.S. global "interests."

Hence, the rabid anti-Libyan thrust of U.S. actions. Ships of the 6th Fleet are "posted" off the Libyan coast. Aircraft taking off from the decks of aircraft carriers invade the sovereign republic's airspace. Incidentally, the Reagan administration's first military act was against Libya. In August 1981 fighters of the "Black Aces" squadron based on the aircraft carrier Nimitz downed two Libyan patrol planes over the Gulf of Sidra. In November last year THE WASHINGTON POST reported that the CIA had worked out a secret plan for destablizing the situation in Libya and physically eliminating M. al-Qadhdhafi and other republic leaders. This plan was approved by the White House.

Meanwhile, Washington is trying to pin the blame on others. The United States is accusing Tripoli of complicity in the terrorist raids which took place on New Year's eve at the Rome and Vienna airport. The Libyans resolutely refuted those fabrications, but the truth does not concern the United States. It is again gambling on the "black aces" of state terrorism. It is implementing Washington's fashionable new strategy of "neoglobalism" -- a strategy of aggression and total interference in the affairs of other states. But Libya does not give in to blackmail and threats. As M. al-Qadhdhafi has stressed, the Libyan people will defend their motherland with all the means at their disposal.

U.S. EGYPTIAN ENVOY REITRES DUE TO 'DISAGREEMENTS'

LD082111 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 8 Jan 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] A report from Cairo today is extremely interesting: U.S. ambassador to Egypt Veliotes is retiring, it is pointed out, in connection with disagreements regarding U.S. policy in the region.

I remind you that prior to taking up his post in Cairo, Veliotes was head of the Middle East section of the State Department.

U.S. POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA LEADS TO TENSION

'Strong-Arm Pressure' Used

PM081945 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Gambling on State Terrorism"]

[Text] Continuing to comment on the recent meeting between U.S. President R. Reagan and Mexican President M. de la Madrid in Mexicali, the U.S. press points out the existence of acute contradictions between the two countries in relation to the problems of Central America. While Mexico places emphasis on resolving these problems by diplomatic means, the United States, as a spokesman for the State Department frankly admits, prefers to "exert strong-arm pressure."

Some idea of how this "strong-arm pressure" is put into practice is provided by an interview which President Reagan gave Mexican journalists on the eve of the meeting in Mexicali. In this interview he rained down attacks on Nicaragua and, at the same time, on the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and Cuba, accusing the USSR in particular of "supporting groups which are attempting to establish communist, dictatorial regimes in the Western Hemisphere," carrying out "subversive activities," and "supporting terrorism." Later developing this same theme at a briefing specially arranged for journalists, a high-ranking member of the State Department claimed that the most serious threat to political stability in Central America emanates from the "subversive actions" of the USSR, Cuba, and Nicaragua, which are supposedly engaged in the "mass export of revolution."

Statements such as these are a classic example of political hypocrisy and slander. Their aim is to deflect attention away from Washington's piratical behaviour in the international arena. As irrefutable facts confirm, the root of the situation existing in Central America, as in the world's other "hot spots," lies in the policy of the United States, which is aimed at installing and preserving systems convenient to it and oriented toward interference in the affairs of sovereign states.

In Central America Washington does not like the fact that the people of Nicaragua have chosen an independent path of development which does not fit into the framework of U.S. goals in this region, arbitrarily declared a "zone of exclusive U.S. interests."

The consequences of the "strong-arm pressure" and, to be more precise, of the undeclared war which the United States is waging against Nicaragua through the hands of the "contras" are well-known: In the course of 5 years the rebels have killed 8,000 and wounded 4,000 people. As many as 7,000 children have been orphaned. The republic has incurred material loss to the sum of $1.5 billion. In neighboring El Salvador, tens of thousands of civilians have perished at the hands of the "death squads" connected with the CIA. These facts, cited by authoritative international and U.S. organizations, unequivocally attest that the United States is pursuing a policy of state terrorism in Central America.

With such an approach, the United States is placing itself in isolation. Serious objections against its piratical practices in the Central American region have been expressed not only in Mexico and other countries in Central America, but also throughout the world, including by U.S. allies in Western Europe.

Diplomacy and peaceful negotiations, rather than arbitrary rule and diktat -- this is the only way to resolve the problems of Central America.

Nicaragua, Libya Compared

LD082039 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Vitaliy Sobolev commentary]

[Text] President of Nicaragua Daniel Ortega has pointed out that at the same time as it is whipping up dangerous tension around Libya, the U.S. Administration is assembling military vessels off the shores of Nicaragua. The United States has supplied helicopters to the mercenary Somozist bands and intends to pass on to them a new consignment of anti-aircraft missiles. Here is the latest news commentary. At the microphone is Vitaliy Sobolev:

The Americans have again arrived in Honduras, where the Somozists are based. Routine maneuvers are under way, during which U.S. troops are preparing for direct intervention by the United States against Nicaragua and are strengthening the rear bases of the mercenaries.

On the border with Nicaragua, Honduras has set up an armed barrier against other Americans who, together with the representatives of tens of countries, are taking part in the international peace march through the countries of Central America. Where Washington's power is concerned, the way is open for troops, but not for those on the side of peace. Such an approach by the United States can also be observed in other regions of conflict. The Nicaraguan leader, with complete justification compared the situation around Libya and Nicaragua. In both cases, economic sanctions have already been put into effect and blackmail is being perpetrated by military means. The representatives of the U.S. leadership do not deny the probability of the use of U.S. armed forces. These are concrete examples of the practical implementation of the concept, which is so popular at present in Washington, of neoglobalism. In essence it is a question of the old imperialist truncheon policy and gunboat diplomacy, which have only changed their odious names.

The United States announces that it is justified in intervening in the affairs of other countries, to conduct undeclared wars against them, and to covertly or overtly strive for changes in their forms of government. Such theory and practice poisons the whole international atmosphere. Even as President Reagan was preparing for the meeting in Geneva, there were politicians and observers in the United States who publicly instructed him on how to draw the subject matter of the talks with the Soviet leader to regional conflicts and thus, avoid an improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations. And now, neoglobalism is being used to undermine the spirit of Geneva.

But at the Geneva meeting, the prerequisites were created for setting up a constructive dialogue on regional problems also. The Soviet Union has consistently demonstrated its willingness to facilitate a just and honest resolution of these problems. The nonaligned countries decisively act in favor of a peaceful settlement.

In the countries of the West and in the United States mass public demonstrations continue against intervention in Central America and against the neoglobalist actions in other regions of conflict. Thus, on the troubled Nicaraguan-Honduras border also, hundreds of people have arrived with slogans of peace from the countries of the Western Hemisphere, Europe, and Asia. Their path is a difficult one, but they will not give up.

'NEW GLOBALISM' SEEN AS KEY TO U.S. REGIONAL POLICY

Lomeyko Comments

PM081500 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] A briefing was held for Soviet and foreign journalists 6 January at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center.

It was noted at the briefing that the maintenance and deepening of tension in various parts of the world is a direct consequence of the policy pursued by the United States of interfering in the affairs of sovereign states. The existence in the world of many countries whose views and policies differ from U.S. views and policies is not to the liking of U.S. ruling circles, it was pointed out at the briefing. Recently, there have been new direct threats from Washington against Libya, Syria, Nicaragua, and other countries. The United States considers itself justified in pursuing a policy of state terrorism against these states. The essence of the "new globalism" concept that is being actively preached by Washington lies precisely in asserting the United States' "legitimate right" to use force or the threat of force against sovereign states.

Replies were given to journalists' questions.

Military Used for Implementation

LD082016 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 8 Jan 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] It seems to me that the current events surrounding Libya go far beyond the bounds of trade and economics and of regional problems in general. It is a question of one of the manifestations of the United States' so-called new globalism, a doctrine which has recently been promoted quite openly and broadly in Washington. The realities of the situation in the world today clearly do not suit conservative circles in the United States, the fact that there are tens of states whose views and policy differ from those of the United States. It is unacceptable to Washington when the people of one country or another decide to order their life not in the way prescribed from across the ocean. Everything is used against such obstinate cases, from a trade boycott to U.S. aircraft carriers.

A noteworthy illustration of this was published in one of the latest issues of the U.S. journal U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT. This publishes a chart of the military blocs led by the United States which literally encircle the whole world. In order to keep the participants in these blocs in subjugation, U.S. Armed Forces are placed on their territories, as for example, those in the FRG. True, the U.S. journal notes with regret, two such blocs have recently disintegrated. You can see that they have been crossed out on the chart [Video focuses on CENTO and SEATO on map of military blocs]. These are the CENTO military bloc, in the southeast, and its Pacific branch, SEATO. This is why the United States is striving to draw its other allies, the NATO bloc above all, in as firmly as possible. In order to achieve this, its efforts involve them in every kind of U.S. global military program, including the preparation plans for "star wars."

PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING CULTURAL EXCHANGE OUTLINED

Ivanov at News Conference

LD031841 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1540 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, 3 January (TASS) -- "We feel a sincere desire on the part of Americans for establishing friendly relations between the two countries in the field of culture: It is being shown by public figures, creative collectives, firms, and other U.S. organizations," Georgiy Ivanov, deputy minister of culture, stated. He spoke today at a news conference in Moscow.

Ivanov said the two countries' cultural exchanges, which the U.S. Administration broke off 6 years ago, were resumed following the Geneva meeting. In their day, the dynamics of these relations corresponded to the overall level of Soviet-U.S. relations. More than 80 outstanding Soviet collectives have appeared in the United States since 1958, including ballet troupes from the Bolshoy theater and the Leningrad "Kirov" theater, the State Folk Dance ensemble, the "Berezka" choreographic ensemble, dance ensembles from the Ukraine and Georgia, the puppet theater of Sergey Obraztsov, the best Soviet symphony orchestras, and other collectives. For their part, U.S. performers have often appeared in the Soviet Union and a broad exchange of exhibitions have taken place.

However, Ivanov said, at the beginning of 1980 the U.S. Administration believed it was not in the national interest to show an exhibition of masterpieces from the Hermitage collections in its own country. But the Soviet Union continued to bring U.S. culture and art to the Soviet people under conditions in which the U.S. side had severed cultural exchanges. Between 1979 and 1984 alone, 1784 books titles by U.S. authors appeared in the Soviet Union with a total pressrun of more than 200 million copies.

Work is currently being completed on the publication of a 45-volume library of U.S. literature. Initially, it was also intended to publish a library of Soviet literature in the United States, but the U.S. side has not published a single volume. Performances of plays by U.S. writers are shown on the stages of 165 Soviet theaters and U.S. films are frequently screened in the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, much has been lost in the last 6 years, Ivanov continued. Today, it will not be easy to begin anew the path toward getting to know each other. Above all, this is because "a distorted, sometimes crudely distorted view of the Soviet Union predominates in the United States today."

"How can the torrent of anti-Sovietism in the United States be reconciled with the spirit of Geneva? I believe someone is certain to attempt to justify this turbulent, deliberately directed torrent with reference to the so-called "freedom of creative activity and of self-expression." But this is, naive, at the very least," Ivanov noted.

The New Year greetings from Mikhail Gorbachev to the U.S. people and from Ronald Reagan to the Soviet people contained the thought that it is essential to strengthen mutual understanding and to get to know one another better. In this regard, the elimination of the existing deficit of trust in Soviet-U.S. relations is indispensable, the deputy minister said.

Numerous questions then followed from journalists. The following people participated in the news conference on "The USSR and USA; The Spirit of Geneva and Cultural Exchanges": Composer Tikhon Khrennikov; dramatist Genrikh Borovik; choreographer Ignor Moiseyev; poet Gevgeniy Yevtushenko; film director Stanislav Rostotskiy; and writer Mikhail Sagatelyan.

Aleksandr Churlin, USSR Foreign Affairs Ministry deputy chief of the department for cultural links, noted that the documents signed in Geneva may be a substantial factor in the cause of normalizing Soviet-U.S. relations.

Cultural Exchanges Detailed

LD031911 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1140 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jan (TASS) -- Georgiy Ivanov announced that a U.S. children's and youth theater from the town of Albany (New York State) will begin its tour of Moscow as early as 6 January. Conductor Yuriy Temirkanov and pianist Nikolay Petrov are flying to the United States on 5 January, where they will perform a series of concerts with the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. An exhibition of impressionist work from the Washington National Gallery collection is planned for this February in Leningrad's Hermitage, which will be followed by an exhibition of the great masters' pictures from Armand Hammer's private collection in April. An exhibition of impressionists and post-impressionists from the Hermitage and Moscow's Pushkin Museum, and to run for 6 months, will open in April in Washington to be followed by runs in Los Angeles and New York.

The Ministry of Culture is currently holding talks with a number of U.S. concert organizers [impressarskiye firmy] and public organizations regarding tours of Soviet collectives in the United States and by U.S. groups in the Soviet Union. The Moscow children's musical theater will perform before a U.S. audience in June. A tour of the United States by the Soviet state folk dance company may also become a reality this year.

The leader of the group, Igor Moiseyev, remarked that "we have always received a warm reception in the United States. However, there also was a fly in the ointment, provocations from those elements who did not like our mixing with the U.S. public. But, all the same, that cannot spoil the general picture. We believe we will find goodwill among the U.S. audiences."

Tikhon Khrennikov explained that composer Rodion Shchedrin is flying to the United States: His suite on themes from the ballet "The Seagull" will be performed in New York on 14 January. Concerts based on Khrennikov's works are also planned. Talks are underway on a visit by one of the U.S.' leading symphony orchestras to the USSR. This is only part of the extensive program which composers and musicians of the two countries plan to implement.

There was talk at the news conference on the need to restore cooperation in the cinema field. Yevgeniy Yevtushenko will go to the United States in February in connection with the premier of his film "The Kindergarten." "I would very much like" he said "to arrange a Soviet film festival in the United States and a U.S. one in the USSR." He also proposed the creation of a Soviet-U.S. cultural committee as a social organization which would have as members well-known artists, writers, performers, and educators from the two countries.

Potential for Mutual Ties Exists

LD061429 Moscow TASS in English 1251 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 6 TASS -- Well-known Soviet poet Yevgeniy Yevtushenko, who is also known as director of a motion picture called "Kindergarten," will visit the United States for the first screening of his film there early in February.

The picture is about his childhood which fell on the years of the Second War War.

Speaking in a TASS interview, Yevtushenko said he has received invitations from American universities to give poetry recitals there during his visit to the U.S.

"Even in recent years, when cultural exchanges between our two countries were practically paralyzed," the poet said, "contacts between Soviet and American writers were not cut off and there took place seven get-togethers of literary men from the Soviet Union and the United States."

He added: "During a recent trip to the Soviet Transcaucasian Republic of Georgia I spotted some trees along a road, which had some small wooden boards attached to them. As it turned out, they were planted by American writers who attended one such meeting there. The trees have risen and got stronger."

"Today it is essential to normalize book exchanges between our countries as a matter of priority," Yevtushenko believes. "Very much depends in this connection on the American side which has not been paying due attention to Soviet literature."

He said that when he visited Moscow-based "molodaya Gvardiya" publishers shortly before the new year, he was told there they are prepared to publish an anthology of American poets under 30 as well as a collection of verses by young Soviet and U.S. poets, that is on condition, of course, that American publishers will take similar steps.

"It would also be a good thing," Yevtushenko said further, "to organize a joint recital by prominent American and Soviet poets somewhere in a big concert hall in the United States and a similar event in the Moscow Sport Center seating 15,000."

"I guarantee," he promised, "this will be a sell-out."

Yevtushenko said that living in the Soviet Union there is a talented 10-year-old poetess, Nika Turbina, whose very first book has won a prize at a competition in Sweden. He added that in America he has also met with children with an indubitable flair for poetry. Yevtushenko said there is an idea, which has originated during his conversation with American colleagues, to arrange recitals of their poetry by children from both countries in Moscow and New York.

"Both my colleagues and I have many offers for further cooperation. We should strengthen the tree of our mutual ties," the poet said in conclusion.

Musicians To Tour U.S.

LD031829 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1304 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] New York, 3 Jan (TASS) -- The well-known Soviet musicians Yuriy Termirkanov, chief conductor of the "Kirov" opera and ballet theater in Leningrad and pianist Nikolay Petrov are setting off for a tour in the United States. They will be the first envoys of Soviet art which will perform before U.S. audiences in accordance with the agreement signed in November in Geneva between the USSR and the United States on contacts and exchanges in the fields of science, education, and culture. A representative of the New York Philharmonic has reported, they will be taking part in the very next few days in concerts in one of the city's major concert halls.

COMMENTARY PREVIEWS SHEVARDNADZE VISIT TO JAPAN

Territorial Adjustments Rejected

LD082247 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Vladimir Tsvetov commentary]

[Text] A commentary on the coming visit to Japan by Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, that was broadcast today by the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation, says that the Japanese side is ready to take a step forward in the development of relations between Japan and the USSR. Numerous items expressing hope for an expansion of Japanese-Soviet ties also are being carried at present by Japan's television and newsapers.

Here is the latest news commentary. Political observer Vladimir Tsvetov is at the microphone.

The Japanese mass information media are quite rightly pointing out that the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit talks in Geneva should have a favorable influence on relations between Japan and the Soviet Union too. Indeed, the Geneva meeting has given a very important focus to these relations, and we now are entitled to expect specific actions. The coming visit to Japan by Comrade Shevardnadze precisely provides an opportunity to begin real progress.

The Soviet Union's striving for good-neighborliness with Japan in obvious. Fine prerequisites exist for such good-neighborliness, above all political prerequisites. The USSR and Japan are interested in eliminating the nuclear threat and in strengthening international stability. A material prerequisite for Soviet-Japanese good-neighborliness is the mutually-supplementing nature of the Soviet and Japanese economies, which fosters extensive trade and active business cooperation. There is an emotional prerequisite too namely a lasting mutual attraction towards a familiarization with each other's cultural wealth. Finally, nature has indeed shown concern for a prerequisite of good-neighborliness such as the geographical proximity of the USSR and Japan.

The Soviet side has already done a great deal to create the conditions in which relations between the USSR and Japan might be strengthened. For instance, the Soviet Union has renounced the first use of nuclear weapons in general and in Asia in particular. Our country has respect for the three non-nuclear principles that Japan has proclaimed, namely not to possess, not to produce, and not to import nuclear arms. The USSR has declared its readiness to freeze the numbers of missiles in the Asian part of the country, provided the United States does not start altering the strategic situation in the Asian and Pacific area. A Soviet initiative exists for removing nuclear arms-carrying ships from certain parts of the world's oceans. The Pacific Ocean could quite well be made such an area, and Japan should be particularly interested in that. The USSR has proposed the removal of foreign military bases and the dissolution of military blocs. In other words the Soviet Union has been displaying goodwill for the purpose of living with Japan in a situation of mutual trust and peace.

Material in the Japanese press, however, includes statements that clearly are not linked with a desire to improve our relations. The gist of these statements is to the effect that the level and character of relations with the USSR should be made dependent on a solution of the so-called territorial problem.

To put forward this far-fetched problem means to refuse to take sensible account of the realities that have come about since World War II and to raise one's hand against the very principles of the postwar peace settlement. The Soviet Union has never agreed, and never will agree, to this. In a new year interview Japanese Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone used the words "a fruitful start" when he spoke of the forthcoming talks between the Soviet and Japanese Foreign Ministers. We truly want it to be a fruitful start and not a false start, to resort to sports terminology.

Kapitsa Press Conference

OW081223 Tokyo KYODO in English 1211 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 8 KYODO -- The Soviet Union hopes that Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Japan next week will bring positive results, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa said Wednesday.

Speaking at a press conference, Kapitsa said Shevardnadze will exchange views with Japanese government leaders on ways to expand political dialogue and strengthen economic and trade ties with Japan.

He said Shevardnadze will also focus on such international topics as peace and control, militarization of outer space and regional affairs in the Pacific implying that the issue of Japan's participation in the research phase of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative would be raised during Shevardhadze's talks in Japan.

Kapitsa refused to comment on the "northern territories" issue -- Japan's claim to four Soviet-occupied islands off Hokkaido.

However, he said there was a good chance for the two countries to mend their ties since "it is impossible for the two neighbors to get a divorce."

"They must seek ways to live with one another," he said.

JAPAN'S MILITARY SPENDING INCREASE SCORED

LD061227 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Sergey Pravdin Commentary]

[Excerpts] Weinberger, the U.S. Defense secretary, has come out in favor of further expanding cooperation between the Pentagon and the Japanese National Defense Directorate. He has stated that the U.S. military department has formulated a broad program for the coming years with these aims in mind. The Pentagon chief also unambiguously demanded a further increase in the military budget of Japan.

In his special New Year greetings, Weinberger has called on Tokyo, as he put it, not to fall behind in its military preparations and to continue to step them up in the course of Japan's implementation of its 5-year program for strengthening the Armed Forces, which is calculated up to 1990. Let us recall that in 1986, the year that has just begun, the allocations of the land of the Rising Sun for military purposes will increase straight off by 6.6 percent. In all, the Japanese military industrial complex plans to spand over $90 billion in the coming 5-year period on increasing its military might.

Weinberger has described this program of the Japanese Government as reassuring.

Japanese ruling circles, just like the U.S. Administration, plan to finance the further increase in the military budget by new spending reductions on social needs.

The policy of increasing Japanese military might as well as its military and political cooperation with the United States and its participation in the so called new Far East pact which Washington is knocking together and in which the Seoul regime will also participate contradict the peaceful clauses of the post-war Japanese Constitution. That is why attempts by the United States to draw Japan still further into implementing its militarist plans are being resolutely rebuffed by broad strata of the Japanese public.

DPRK OFFICIAL CITED ON 'TEAM SPIRIT' MANEUVERS

PM081451 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jan 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Just Demand"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 6 Jan -- Chon Kum-chol, head of the DPRK delegation for preparing parliamentary talks with South Korea, has appealed to the United States demanding the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

The presence of U.S. Armed Forces in the south of the Korean peninsula, he pointed out, is resulting in the aggravation of tension in that region and is obstructing the peaceful reunification of Korea.

The DPRK delegation head called on the United States and South Korea to refrain from holding military maneuvers like the "Team Spirit-85" maneuvers this year. Such a provocative show of force aimed against the DPRK jeopardizes the dialogue between the North and South and may result in serious and irreversible consequences for the development of relations between the two sides, the document says.

DRA VETERAN DISPLEASED BY FRIENDS' MATERIALISM

PM081636 [Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 January 1985 carries on page 4 under the headline "'This Meeting Shook My Entire Life'" a letter from Aleksandr Drobotov of Tolyatti on the difficulties encountered by a certain Anatoliy, a DRA veteran, in coming to terms with people's attitudes on returning home. Anatoliy was "many times on the brink of death and was wounded." In one battle "his friend was killed" and in another he saw an "Afghan girl die of starvation. In the DRA, Drobotov writes, he was in an "atmosphere of high revolutionary purity" but on returning home Anatoliy "could not believe his eyes" when he found his friends interested in obtaining new records and cars, his parents arguing over the site for a new dacha, and his girl-friend going about in "American jeans." He even wondered "what had his comrade died for?" Drobotov concludes that "Anatoliy is not "traumatized" but just "higher and purer than many of us. He drew this purity from the ringing revolutionary spring of Afghanistan about which most of us have only the vaguest idea."

The article is accompanied by a Inna Rudenko commentary under the headline "Why This Letter Is So Moving." She begins: "Is this the way we live while others are fighting?" and goes on to consider the personality of the young serviceman, stating "You may say he is one-sided. That a black and white view of life can be just as harmful as an un-colored, nonexistent view. That a lad who today buys jeans at a stall will tomorrow face bullets just as readily. That someone's death from starvation is not evidence of our total satiety. Far from it. That the law of the state is higher than even the most sincere and real passions. That, ultimately, there is the law. And that is my view too."

WESTERN MEDIA SPREAD ANTI-DRA 'SLANDER'

PM081625 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Without Refraining From Deliberate Lies"]

[Text] Kabul, 5 Jan -- The Western mass media are carrying out a broad subversive propaganda campaign against the DRA with a view to blackening the gains of the April revolution, not stopping at spreading deliberate lies and slander, the BAKHTAR agency writes.

An example of this, the commentary published here says, is the recent falsehood issuing from the so-called "Afghan committee in Bonn," that the Afghan government allegedly "gave the order to physically destroy Afghan and foreign doctors providing medical assistance to counterrevolutionaries." A certain "doctor" (Kasem Nuri), killed during fighting in Orgun, was cited in particular as a "victim of terror."

The aim of this propaganda action is obvious -- to blacken the activity of the DRA Armed Forces which are clearing the country's territory of gangs of assassins and thieves, and also to slander the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan who came to the DRA to provide help against outside aggression and defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Afghan people, BAKHTAR notes, know very well what the so-called "doctors" and "journalists" are up to in Afghanistan, as they flout the laws and generally accepted norms of international law to illegally penetrate the country's territory where they engage in espionage activity in close contact with gangs of counterrevolutionaries. During a press conference in Kabul, it was irrefutably proved that they are directly implicated in the destruction of an Afghan airline passenger plane and all its passengers. The agency also recalls the infiltration of four Americans into the DRA in the region of Qandahar, one of whom -- Charles Thornton -- was killed in a skirmish between hostile gangs.

The legitimate question arises that if (Kasem Nuri), Charles Thornton, and similar" journalists and doctors," whom Western propaganda portrays as "providing humane assistance to the people of Afghanistan," are really concerned with the good of the Afghan people, why do they not use the official and legal route for this? After all, at the present time there are representatives of international medical organizations working officially on DRA territory.

Despite the fact that the dushmans are burning and destroying military and civilian hospitals, Afghanistan's government has managed to considerably expand the network of people's health care in the DRA in the years since the revolution.

DRA FOOD SHORTAGE CLAIMS REBUTTED BY FACTS

PM081149 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent G. Ustinov report: "Afghan Bazaars and the Cutter Press"]

[Excerpts] Krabul -- When there are no facts, they have to be invented -- this old rule of cheap jounalism is being used with increasing frequency by bourgeois propaganda in relation to Afghanistan.

This is precisely what happened in the days before the New Year, when the U.S. and West European countries' press suddenly began -- as though at a command -- to sigh loudly and hypocritically about an alleged food shortage in Afghanistan.

There is nothing new in these fabrications. A little earlier, with the same "regret," the Western mass media were playing a long-playing record about the "backwardness" of Afghan health care, allegedly pushed back during the years of the revolution. And how many crocodile tears have been shed over the "oppression: of believers in the DRA!

But let us return to the present campaign. In order to make the state of affairs clear to readers, suffice it to drop in on the Kabul bazaars.

Today, as on any other day, the ("Sabz) Bazaar" or "Green Market" is particularly picturesque. Understandably: It is a southern country. There are large, fresh, bright-orange mandarins, huge crimson pomegranates from Qandahar, glossy yellow apples, watermelons, melons, and persimmons from Herat. Among the vegetables there is an abundance of potatoes, onions, garlic, radishes, sweet peppers, the whole range of greens, large radishes, and carrots.

I asked (Rasul), a vendor acquaintance, how trade was going. "It's a good day!" he smiled flashing his white teeth.

Perhaps things are like this only in Kabul? Nothing of the sort. I have visited many of the country's cities, district centers, and villages. Everywhere the bazaars are full of food products, the stores do a brisk trade, and every factory and every office is a hive of activity from early morning...

Of course, some people sould prefer things not to be like this. At the instigation of the Western special services, the counterrevolution carries out all kinds of different food sabotage: burning peasants' fields, felling fruit orchards, making raids on columns carrying grain and other food products, and robbing peaceful storekeepers.

But the authorities are resolutely rebuffing them and providing prompt and efficient help for the victims. Such help is arriving in the remote, inaccessible mountainous regions, where there is little land suitable for cultivation. In the courtyard of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs, I saw sacks of flour and cases of meat, sugar, and tea destined for dispatch to remote villages. The government is constantly allocating planes and helicopters for this purpose...

Despite the difficult conditions of the undeclared war, the republic is displaying considerable concern for increasing food production and developing agriculture. A few days ago there was a "roundtable" discussion in Kabul devoted to this problem. Addressing the meeting A. Lakanwal, DRA minister of agriculture and land reform, refuted Western propaganda's malicious fabrications about a food shortage in the country and described how matters stand in reality.

The minister noted in particular that the land and water reform being carried out in the country is being backed by other important measures. In the last financial year the government allocated the peasants 145,000 metric tons of fertilizer and 17,000 metric tons of selected wheat and cotton seed. Peasant farms obtain the necessary credits on privileged terms. Machine and tractor stations have been set up in all the economically important provinces. All this is aimed at ensuring that Afghanistan's population is fully provided with food.

Compared with these facts, with the actual everyday Afghan reality, with that can be observed at the Afghan bazaars and in state trade, Western propaganda's fabrications about "starving Afghanistan" look like cheap political scandalmongering.

DRA RELIGIOUS GROUP DEMANDS PAKISTANI WITHDRAWAL

LD071122 Moscow TASS in English 0946 GMT 7 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 7 TASS -- The military Pakistani regime has staged under a far-fetched pretext an act of armed aggression against the free tribes of Afridi and Shinwari in the area of the Khyber pass, demolishing by artillery fire Pashtuns' villages and dwellings, says a message sent by Jamiat-ul-ulema (Association of Religious Scholars) of Waziristan to the secretariat of the organisation of the Islamic conference. This action, says the message, which was released by BAKHTAR news agency, is aimed at the elimination of Pashtun tribes' historical and traditional rights to independence and constitutes the flouting of the existing accords on the tribes' zone of residence.

The Pashtun tribes, the message says, have historical, traditional and religious ties with the Afghan people which supports the April revolution. Imperialism and reaction, including the Islamabad military regime, are bent on converting Pakistani territory into a springboard for aggression against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. This purpose is also served by the incursion of the Pakistani military into the area of the Khyber pass. Jamiat-ul-ulema of Waziristan demands a speediest end to the aggression and the withdrawal of the Pakistani army from the area where the Pashtun tribes live.

KAPITSA BRIEFING ON CAMBODIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA

LD081949 Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Excerpt] A briefing for Soviet and foreign newsmen has been given at the press center of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. Speaking at the briefing, the deputy foreign minister, Mikhail Kapitsa, dwelt on a number of issues related to the situation in Southeast Asia. He described the situation there as tense. Outside forces continue to interfere in the internal affairs of the nations of the region. Washington had nothing to say as the antipopular Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea exterminated more than 3 million people. At the moment the United States supports various counterrevolutionary groups that interfere with the self-determination of Khmer people.

Mikhail Kapitsa said that a real way to peace and neighborly relations in Southeast Asia and to solving the so-called Kampuchean problem is negotiations. The Soviet Union supports the position of Phnom Penh, which, guided by peaceful aspirations, is prepared to enter into negotiations with opposition Khmer groups, except for Pol Pot and his henchmen, guilty of genocide. If such talks do go ahead, the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea is prepared to take further action. It has said that Vietnamese volunteers will be withdrawn from Kampuchea and internationally supervised elections will be held in the country. The next step, according to the proposals of Kampuchea, Vietnam, and Laos, supported by the Soviet Union, may be an international conference on the issue of making Southeast Asia a zone of peace. The Soviet Union is prepared to facilitate that process and contribute, alongside of other permanent members of the UN Security Council, to guarantees of an agreement that can be worked at such an international conference or drawn up within a different framework. [sentence as heard]

The Soviet Union pursues no specific interests in Southeast Asia. It is not trying to draw any gain from the situation that has emerged there. Mikhail Kapitsa dismissed claims made recently by the U.S. Defense Secretary that a buildup of Soviet military power is underway in the Pacific.

SRV Troop Withdrawal Seen

AU081340 Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, Jan 8 (AFP) -- Vietnam might withdraw its troops from Cambodia before the end of 1987 in the event of a political settlement there, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa told a press conference today.

He said that the Soviet Union was opposed to a military settlement in Cambodia because "such a solution would take several years as one would have to wait until the Phnom Penh government had strengthened its forces enough to progressively eliminate the supporters of Pol Pot." He said that in this case Vietnamese troops could withdraw in 1990.

"In the event of a political solution, Vietnam could withdraw its troops in 1987," Mr. Kapitsa added.

The deputy minister said that such a settlement would mean "elections (in Cambodia) with the participation of foreign observers." He said there would have to be a "conference of the three Indochinese countries, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, as well as the members of the ASEAN bloc together with India, and for example Australia and Sweden, countries which have a positive outlook on this issue."

The aim of this forum would be to adopt "a declaration on creating a peace zone" in Indochina which would be guaranteed by the five permanent Security Council members.

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH SRV VIEWED

OW081435 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Reviewing their 1985 achievements, the Soviet people are pleased to emphasize growing Soviet-Vietnamese relations.

Our station observer writes: Soviet-Vietnamese relationships, which include all regular relations, have truly developed in all fields. They have become the constituent component of the politico-social life in our countries. The determinant in the development of Soviet-Vietnamese relations is the close fraternal cooperation between the CPSU and the CPV. Contacts between the two parties include issues of political and economic cooperation. The two people's ideological rapprochement is increasing. The limits of similarity and commonality between Soviet and Vietnamese Communists have been constantly expanding.

The common objectives and tasks of the two parties and countries were once again affirmed during the visit to the Soviet Union last summur by a Vietnamese party-government delegation, headed by Comrade Le Duan. The efficiency in cooperation in political foreign activities between the Soviet Union and Vietnam is growing. In the international arena, our two countries have voiced their opinions on all issues of the times, based on their coordinated, unified stance.

The Soviet people highly value Vietnam's warm support to the peace-loving Leninist policy of the CPSU and the Soviet State, and to the initiatives offered by the Soviet leadership, designed to prevent the expansion of the arms race into outer space and curb it on earth, to ease tensions, and to eliminate the risk of a nuclear catastrophe.

For its part, the Soviet Union resolutely, and totally, supports the constructive proposals that Socialist Vietnam, Democratic Laos, and the PRK have offered on many occasions, designed to sanitize the Southeast Asian situation and make the region a zone of peace, stability, and good-neighborliness.

Economic, scientific, and technological cooperation is one of the major parts of Soviet-Vietnamese relations. Its scope is large. With Soviet cooperation, work is being done on more than 100 projects concerning energy, chemicals, machine building, communications, transport, metallurgy, coal extraction, the construction materials industry, agriculture, and so forth.

In 1985, the assembly of the third turbine group of the Pha Lai Thermoelectric Power was completed; the Bim Son Cement Plant, the Pha Lai-Bac Giang Power lines, and the Moc Chau Tea Plant were put into operation. The opening to traffic of the Thang Long Bridge, spanning the Red River, was a major event.

We also emphasize the preliminary work for the cultivation of hevea on some 50,000 hectares of rubber plantations. With the intensive participation of Soviet designers, projects have been introduced for developing Vietnam's energy sector for the period stretching to 1990 and beyond, to 1995. In addition, Soviet-Vietnamese operation was also achieved on plans for developing the Soviet state and Vietnamese economies for the period 1986-90.

Vietxopetro, the joint Vietnam-Soviet oil and gas venture for tapping oil on Vietnam's continental shelf is accelerating its work. The Soviet Union considers its cooperation with Vietnam in this field one of the major directions in the two countries' economic cooperation, because the prospecting and extraction of Vietnam's valuable sources of energy will help the Vietnamese people rapidly overcome their economic backwardness, get rid of colonialist vestiges, surmount the consequences of many war years, and resolve their strategic tasks. That will help in accelerating industrialization.

Soviet-Vietnam trade relations are steadily increasing, with annual trade exchanges far exceeding 1 billion rubles.

The Vietnamese people highly value Soviet assistance in important fields, such as the training of cadres working in different sectors of the Vietnamese economy. Over the past 30 years, since the signing of the first treaty on Soviet cooperation with, and assistance to, Vietnam in this domain, the Soviet Union has trained over 70,000 Vietnamese specialists, including nearly 17,000 college graduates. Over 8,000 Vietnamese students, practical-training students, and research students are now studying in the Soviet Union. In addition, more than (?20,000) male and female Vietnamese students are learning trades at Soviet factories, enterprises, and construction sites.

Soviet-Vietnamese cultural relations are prolific. To cite an example, the Vietnamese culture days observed last May in the Soviet Union was a great event. For the first time, Vietnam's cultural and art achievements were made known widely in a foreign country.

Soviet-Vietnamese relations have a bright prospect. In a few months, Vietxopetro will provide, for the first time, barrels of oil for Vietnamese industry, products of the Go Dam Diesel Motor Factory will reach consumers, and the assembly of the fourth turbine group of the Pha Lai thermoelectric power plant will (?be completed). In 1987, the first turbine groups of the Hoa Binh and Tri An hydroelectric power plants will be put into operation. There are many more examples.

Undoubtedly, the laid-out projects will be implemented. During his talks with the Vietnamese party-government delegation, Comrade Gorbachev said: Vietnamese Communists and the entire Vietnamese working people can rest assured that Vietnam's socialist construction and its independence and freedom will continue to enjoy a firm prop in our solidarity. Consolidating Soviet-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation is a principled policy of our party and nation.

YUGOSLAVIA'S DIZDAREVIC ARRIVES ON VISIT 8 JAN

Welcomed by Shevardnadze

LD081248 Moscow TASS in English 1115 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 8 TASS -- Raif Dizdarevic, federal secretary for foreign affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, arrived in Moscow today [8 Jan] on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Soviet government.

He was welcomed at the airport by Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, and other officials.

Talks Begin

LD081456 Moscow TASS in English 1359 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 8 TASS -- Soviet-Yugoslav talks began here today. They are conducted by Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU, minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R., and Raif Dizdarevic, federal secretary for foreign affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He arrived in Moscow today for an official friendly visit.

International Questions Addressed

LD081745 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1512 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan (TUNJUG) -- Raif Dizdarevic, federal secretary for foreign affairs, this afternoon arrived by a regular JAT flight on a 4-day official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union. At Sheremetyevo Moscow airport he was welcomed by his host Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet minister of foreign affairs, with a group of his closest aides. Milojko Brulovic, SFRY ambassador to Moscow, and the embassy staff were also present at the welcome.

After the formal welcome the federal secretary, accompanied by his host, was driven to the residence in the Lenin Hills where the first round of Yugoslav-Soviet officials talks started at 1630 local time. The talks will continue in the Kremlin tomorrow where Soviet foreign minister will host a formal dinner in honor of the high-ranking Yugoslav guest.

During his stay in Moscow, Dizdarevic will also meet with Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet and then he will pay a 2-day visit to the Uzekistan Soviet Asian republic.

Since July last year this is the third meeting between the Yugoslav and Soviet foreign ministers. This continues a traditional practice of frequent political contacts at a high level between the two countreis, to which both sides attribute great significance.

The focus of attention of the present Yugoslav-Soviet talks is on relations and cooperation between the two countries, which are successfully developing on the principles of the Belgrade Declaration from 1955 and the Moscow Statement signed 1 year later. The two foreign ministers are also expected to exchange view on topical international questions of interest to both Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

Long-term Cooperation Discussed

LD082309 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2137 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan (TANJUG) -- Relations between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union are based on full independence, equality, non-interference and respect for differences stemming from the two countries' individual paths in developing socialism and their different international positions.

The above was set out during the first round of talks in Moscow today between Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Raif Dizdarevic and his Soviet counter-part Eduard Shevardnadze.

Dizdarevic arrived in Moscow today on a four-day official visit to the Soviet Union.

The two officials' talks focused on bilateral relations, asessed as "good and stable." Dizdarevic and Shevardnadze stated the readiness of their governments to promote bilateral cooperation by researching new fields for its further development, particularly in the economic, scientific and cultural spheres.

The foreign ministers of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union also stressed the need for greater boldness in developing long-term forms of cooperation by way of specialization and industrial cooperation between the two countries' economies and a greater exchange in the fields of science and technology.

Today's three-hour talks, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and in a spirit of understanding, stressed the importance to Yugoslav-Soviet relations of the practice of regular meetings and a continuity of political dialogue between the two countries' leaderships. The talks again proved that a frank dialogue on all questions, including those where certain natural differences appear, is in the service of a successful development of relations between the two countries.

The second, closing round of Yugoslav-Soviet talks is scheduled for tomorrow.

1985 SOVIET-POLISH COOPERATION DISCUSSED POSITIVELY

LD081851 Moscow TASS in English 1709 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 8 TASS -- Soviet-Polish cooperation was developing dynamically in 1985 and was characterized by a variety of forms and ties. This was noted at the 29th meeting of the intergovernmental Soviet-Polish commission on economic, scientific and technical cooperation held in Moscow.

The trade turnover between the USSR and the Polish People's Repbulic will reach 74 billion roubles in 1986-1990 as a result of the coordination of plans, and the Polish People's Republic thus becomes the Soviet Union's second biggest trading partner.

The commission has discussed the course of carrying out the measures for the implementation of the long-term program for the development of economic, scientific and technical cooperation for the period through the year 2000.

The commission worked in the atmosphere of fraternal friendship and complete mutual understanding.

BULGARIA'S ZHIVKOV RECEIVES ACADEMICIAN VELIKHOV

LD081856 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0704 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Sofia, 8 Jan (TASS) -- Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the Bulgarian Peoples Republic, has received Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, who is in Bulgaria. During their friendly conversation there was a discussion about practical steps toward unification of the scientific potentials of the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria and the USSR in order to fulfill the tasks arising from the integrated program of scientific and technical progress of the CEMA countries up to the year 2000. Several new forms of cooperation between the academies of sciences of the two fraternal countries as well as their activity in the fields of electronics, computing, and laser technology were examined. An accord on the creation of a Bulgarian-Soviet scientific -- and in the longer term also production -- association for the manufacture of personal computers and microprocessor-based equipment has been reached. Application in national mixed scientific collectives for work on problems in the fields of crystals, semiconductor technology, and other areas will be formed. [sentence as received]

MOSCOW MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF ROMANIAN REPUBLIC DAY

PM081021 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 31 Dec 85 p 3

[TASS report: "Republic's Anniversary:]

[Text] Bucharest, 30 Dec -- Today Romanian working people are celebrating the 38th anniversary of the proclamation of the Romanian Republic.

On 30 December 1946 the monarchy was overthrown in the country and all power passed into the hands of the working people. Romania embarked on the path of socialist building. Relying on political and economic cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries, it has been transformed during the years of people's power from a backward agrarian country into a socialist state with a multi-sector industry, cooperative agriculture, and advanced science and culture.

Reports are currently reaching the capital of the achievements of labor collectives in the preholiday socialist competition to successfully fulfill the tasks of the 5-year plan which is ending. In the period from 1981-1985 the value of fixed capital in the republic increased from 1,950 billion lei to 2,860 billion lei, the national income increased more than 32 percent, 750,000 new apartments were built, health care, public education, science, and culture receiving further development, and working people's material living standard improved.

In honor of republic day, celebration meetings, various mass cultural events, and sports competitions are being held throughout the country.

HUNGARIAN ECONOMY, PRIVATE SECTOR DETAILED

PM071451 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 85 First Edition p 4

[Article by special correspondents I. Vorozheykin and V. Gerasimov: "Hungary: Signs of Change"]

[Excerpts] Budapest, Moscow -- For People's Hungary this has been a remarkable year in many respects.

Its memorable features were the 40th anniversary of the country's liberation, which merged with the general celebration of the 40th anniversary of the great victory over fascism; the 13th MSZMP Congress, which determined the basic guidelines for Hungary's continued progress along the path of creating the new society; the working people's striving to complete the 5-year plan now nearing its end with the best possible results in order to achieve the greatest balance of the economy while maintaining the relatively high level of the people's well-being; and Hungary's constant participation in the fraternal socialist countries' joint actions aimed at consolidating peace, curbing the arms race, and averting the threat of nuclear war. The full-blooded pulse of social life can be felt both in Budapest and in cities and settlements far from the capital. The signs of change are visible everywhere -- the search for and practical verification of active forms and effective methods of resolving current socioeconomic tasks.

Concern for the Economy

On the Danube embankment in Budapest near the parliament with its striking architectural shapes stands a white-walled building. It houses the MSZMP Central Committee. It was also the venue of our meeting with F. Havasi, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, who is in charge of economic questions.

Our interlocutor gave us a detailed account of the state of affairs in the main sectors of Hungary's national economy. At the same time he drew attention to the complexities and occasional difficulties encountered by Hungarian communists as they strive to switch from the extensive management of the country's economy to its intensification.

The course of accelerating the development of and comprehensively intensifying the national economy means above all making more rational use of the available resources -- the accumulated potential, manpower, capital investments, energy, and raw materials. Thrift and the saving of resources are an indispensable condition for increasing production and improving its efficiency.

It must also be kept in mind that Hungary possesses very limited natural resources. In a year the country extracts 25-26 million metric tons of brown and other coal, 2 million metric tons of oil, and around 7 billion cubic meters of natural gas. But this does not meet even one-half of its energy needs, which must be made up by imports. Virtually all the country's cotton, rubber, iron ore, softwood, and certain other types of raw and semifinished materials are imported. Along with semimanufactures and spare parts, energy resources and materials constitute two-thirds of Hungary's imports.

Resource saving and reducing the use of imported and domestic raw materials and energy affect industry above all. Both because it is the main consumer of energy and materials, and because industry plays the determining role in increasing national income and provides other sectors of the economy and the population with essential items. As the statistics show, 46 percent of Hungary's national income is produced by industry, almost one-third of the economically active population is employed at industrial enterprises, and 25 percent of the national economy's existing fixed assets are concentrated there.

The main tasks in the industrial sphere as discussed at the 13th MSZMP Congress included the comprehensive and economical use of domestic natural resources; the introduction of progressive production techniques; providing a tangible saving of energy and raw materials; and vigorous work to utilize waste products and secondary raw materials.

And much is being done in this respect too. Recently some reduction has been achieved in industry's consumption of energy spent per unit of production. Wide-scale competition is being organized in response to the appeal: "Make the saving of raw materials and energy the main requirement in every enterprise and find new ways to make rational use of secondary raw materials!"

...A busy highway with an almost continuous flow of vehicles quickly took us from central Budapest to Obuda -- the old industrial part of the city. Our aim was to visit the ship- and crane-building plant.

We had a conversation with A. Angyal, general director of the plant. Characterizing the enterprise's main economic indicators, he quoted the figure $100,000. In recent years the plant has reduced its import of Western materials and equipment by that amount annually, replacing them by home-produced articles and socialist countries' supplies.

There have also been positive results in direct savings. The general director illustrated this with a series of examples. Until quite recently the jib of one type of pontoon crane weighed 12 metric tons but now it has "shed" 2 metric tons thanks to the use of a more efficient means of hardening the structure.

The shipbuilders' example is yet further practical confirmation of the visible results of the campaign for thrift and savings. It also shows that this area of economic work is organically linked with improving the organization and structure of production and using the achievements of scientific and technical progress and with the whole range of thrift intensification measures.

Consolidating Achievements

On hearing that we were going to Baksa village, I. Jerszi, a secretary of the Baranya MSZMP district committee, remarked:

"In general their cooperative is average. Their soil is by no means the best. But the cooperative works enterprisingly, it experiments, and has introduced innovations in labor organization and remuneration..."

The cooperative's economy is distinguished by a relatively high level of intensiveness. The annual production volume is around 500 million forints (there are 18 forints to the ruble), of which 25-30 million or 5-6 percent represent net profit. After budget deductions the cooperative has 13-16 million forints left, which are channeled into the farm's further development, to strengthen its sociocultural base, and provide public amenities.

We were told about this by I. Farkas, the cooperative's deputy chairman for economic questions (such posts exist in Hungarian villages). He described the "Baksa method" as a group contract supplemented by autonomous financing and self-management. As our interlocutor explained, this method is supported by an amount of profit planned by the cooperative and enshrined in the contract. If extra profit is gained a certain proportion is placed in advance at the disposal of the contracting collective. If the contract's conditions are not observed the team pays a forfeit.

"Full autonomous financing," I. Farkas noted, "reliably promotes labor quality, labor discipline, and thrift. It has even made the negligent catch up..."

The state of affairs and the economic search at the "Silver Ear" cooperative reflects, to a certain extent, the trend in the development of agricultural production throughout the country, which is resolving a dual task -- ensuring an uninterrupted supply of different foodstuffs to the population and expanding exports.

In the past 20 years the production of agricultural output in Hungary has increased 80 percent, grain, fruit, and meat production have doubled, and egg production has risen by 150 percent. The export of agriculturally based products increased 400 percent in the same period. But perhaps the most noticeable improvements took place in grain production and livestock fattening. Annual per capita production of 1.5 metric tons of grain and 150 kg of meat has become a reality for Hungary.

As for grain, preference is given to wheat and corn. The increase of gross harvests is ensured not by expanding the sown areas but by the intensive method -- by a sharp rise in yield based on the use of high-productivity strains, mineral and organic fertilizers, machine systems, and the strict observance of production disicipline and agrotechnical requirements. In 1981-1985 the average wheat crop in the country as a whole was 45 quintals per hectare while for corn it was over 60 quintals per hectare. In stock-raising preference is given to the use of concentrated feed for pigs and poultry.

If you look at the statistics you will notice that the bulk (about two-thirds) of gross rural output comes from public sector plots belonging to rural production cooperatives and state farms with the remainder coming from cooperatives' private farms and from subsidiary and personal plots. It is as though a division of labor is taking place here between the large enterprises and small producers.

Public sector plots belonging to cooperatives and state farms, using their potential for mechanizing crop farming work, are concentrating their efforts on grain and feed production and on producing livestock products at complexes using industrial techniques. They are concerned with propagating good quality seed and rearing pedigree young livestock. Private, subsidiary, and personal plots succeed where it is still necessary to spend large amounts on manual labor. Furthermore, the cattle sheds, stables, and other agricultural buildings which still exist on peasant farmsteads can be used effectively in livestock fattening and poultry raising. It goes without saying that small plots must be given the help they need, primarily in soil cultivation, the supply of seeds, pedigree livestock, and feed, and the sale of produce.

During the aforementioned conversation at the MSZMP Central Committee, F. Havasi remarked:

"The main motive forces of our economy are the state and cooperative sectors. That is the case in both the city and the countryside. The two sectors have equal rights and serve the people and socialism. They occupy the commanding heights. But in the countryside the distinguishing feature is that the large socialist enterprises have combined well with private farms. We believe that such integration will continue to be a strong factor in agricultural production here."

Replying to a question on the prospects for Hungarian agriculture, our interlocutor stressed that the results achieved must be consolidated. This means further progress along the path of intensifying agricultural production and making fuller use of the genetic potential of plants and livestock. Effective forms must be found for combining the interests of society as a whole, individual production collectives, and each rural worker.

Leading Forces

Our Hungarian friends clearly realize that the successful resolution of the tasks of socialist building depends first of all on the initiative and energy that people show in their work and how effective their labor is. As we saw for ourselves at enterprises in Budapest and in the cities of Pecs, Szeged, and the other places that we visited, party organizations, planning and economic organs, and trade union and economic leaders there pay constant attention to ensuring that the fullest possible account is taken of both the quantity and quality of labor and the degree of its social usefulness.

Above all there is material interest in ensuring the best work results and the encouragement of those who show a creative approach to work, economic initiative, and enterprise. Extra work is also encouraged. A considerable proportion of workers, peasants on cooperative farms, and employees have a so-called sideline outside work time either at their own production unit, in the services sphere, or on private farms.

Private workers [chastniki], including small-scale craftsmen and traders, make up a certain proportion of the Hungarian economy (3-4 percent in output production, somewhat more in the retail trade and consumer services sphere). They contribute to satisfying real social needs, particularly in the sphere of day-to-day services in the local neighborhood.

Sometimes, of course, you encounter skulduggery from people who circumvent the law in an attempt to grab a little more for themselves. There are also instances of the excessive pursuit of additional pay to the detriment of the main cause, the improvement of skills, and cultural leisure. Monitoring must be stepped up, of course, and people must be put in their place. More than once during our meetings we heard people say: "Both slackers and people pursuing their own interests are alien to the spirit of socialism."

In addition to material interest, moral incentive measures also help to foster respect and a conscientious and highly aware attitude to labor and promote the observance of social justice. The example set by advanced workers and appeals by labor collectives to the best work traditions are very significant.

The working class in Hungary, as in the other fraternal socialist countries, is the main production and leading political force. Embracing around 56 percent of the economically active population, it exceeds the cooperatively organized peasantry (14 percent), white-collar workers [rabotnik umstvennogo truda] (26.3 percent), and, of course, private sector representatives (4 percent). The working class' commitment to socialist ideals, their high activeness, and their tremendous experience and resilience have a bendficial effect on all social development.

FIRST U.S. CRUISE MISSILES DEPLOYED IN FRG

LD082133 Moscow TASS in English 2119 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Bonn, January 8 TASS -- Having installed 108 Pershing-2 nuclear missiles in West Germany, the United States has begun to deploy there first-strike weapons of another type, cruise missiles. The host of the ARD T.V. programs has announced that a transport brought the first U.S. cruise missile to Hasselbach and that it will be shortly shipped to the U.S. military base Han near the city. According to him, a mass demonstration took place in Hasselbach to protest against the continued deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in West Germany and against the nuclear arms buildup in Europe.

REACTION TO U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA

UK Refuses To Join

LD082345 Moscow TASS in English 2334 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] London, January 9 TASS -- Britain refused to join the trade and economic sanctions clamped down on Libya by the Reagan administration. Receiving U.S. Ambassador Charles H. Price, Britain's Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, limited himself, as follows from a report released for the press by the Foreign Ministry, only to expressing understanding of Washington's plans and consent not to take steps undermining the U.S. measures. A commentary by the BBC company said that Americans do not have to rely on the support of its West European allies in this issue.

FRG Rejects Sanctions

LD081751 Moscow TASS in English 1656 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Bonn, January 8 TASS -- Despite pressure by the U.S. Administration, the FRG Government has no intention to take part in "sanctions" against Libya. This decision was adopted by a meeting of the FRG Cabinet of Ministers in Bonn today. Experience shows that economic "sanctions" do not achieve the sought political results, it is noted in the government's decision.

The causes and preconditions for international terrorism can be eradicated only if the Middle East conflict is resolved in a peaceful way. Therefore the FRG Government will be persistently supporting all international efforts aimed at the resolution of that conflict.

Spain Refuses Boycott

LD082009 Moscow TASS in English 2001 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Madrid, January 8 TASS -- The Spanish Government has refused to join in the economic boycott against Libya, announced by the U.S. President. Inocencio Arias, general director of the Chief Board of Diplomatic Information at Spain's Foreign Ministry, said today that, in response to the U.S. appeal to Spain to join in this boycott, the Spanish Government stated that it does not favour the politically-motivated application of such sanctions.

Portugal Response Negative

LD081748 Moscow TASS in English 1658 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Lisbon, January 8 TASS -- Portugal will not support economic sanctions against Libya, an official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal said here today. He noted that Portugal was watching with concern the developments in the Middle East and added that his country respected territorial integrity of all states of the region and advocated the search of a just solution to the Palestinian problem. Portugal, the ministry spokesman stressed, rejects violence as a method of settling international conflicts.

TASS Analyst Comments

LD081756 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 8 Jan 86

["Sober Stand" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Aleksey Grigoryev writes:

The Japanese newspaper "ASAHI" described as sobering shower for Washington the stand of Western Europe, which virtually unanimously refused to support the U.S. Administration's appeals for economic boycott of Libyan Jamahiriyah. Soberness is required in any deal, but it is particularly indispensable in politics. This axiom was graphically manifest anew in the past days, when the United States launched an unprecedented campaign of blackmail and threats against Libya, going at pains to make its NATO allies join it in economic sanctions against the sovereign Arab country.

The British BBC radio broadcasting corporation underlines that the United States does not have, however, to rely in this case on the support of its allies. Even the thought that the United States will take independently any actions against Libya sparks trouble among Europeans, the U.S. CBS television network reports from London.

Symptomatic in this respect is the stand of Italy. The country was virtually shocked by bloodshed in the Rome airport, the blame for which is attempted to be placed by the bourgeois press in unison with the Washington propaganda machine on Libya. However, the Italian Government decided, and rightly so, to avoid any military sanctions and simultaneously appeal to the United States and Israel with a view to expressing outright disagreement with any option providing for war or military actions, as was stated by Bettino Craxi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, the newspaper LA STAMPA SERE reports.

A session of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Information and Security eventually also decided not to impose any economic sanctions against Libya.

Similar statements were made, among others, by spokesman for the governments and business quarters of Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland, Malta, Japan and Canada. West Europeans motivate their reluctance to take sanctions against Libya, firstly, by the fact that the move will hurt primarily the West European economy, the U.S. ABC television network says. Second, they have no confidence whatsoever that Libya stands behind the terrorists who staged the Rome and Vienna airport attacks. This country, the CBS admits in its turn, is a good investor and purchaser of miscellaneous goods -- from British-made tractors to cars manufactured in Western Europe.

So at hand is a sober political and economic approach in defiance of the frenzied campaign of threats, muscle flexing and arms brandishing, a sensible stance of U.S. allies in response to the "gunboat diplomacy" pursued by the United States and Tel Aviv towards Libya.

RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TALKS WITH UK ADVOCATED

LD082301 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Valentin Vasilyets commentary]

[Text] Coming up next is a commentary by Valentin Vasilyets. He outlines what could be done by the USSR and the UK to build up European security. This is what he writes:

It might seem as if everybody in the East and the West has agreed long ago that the concentration of nuclear weapons in Europe has reached a dangerous point. However, last year saw another nuclear buildup, when 236 more American missiles were sited in Europe, part of them in Britain. The American nuclear buildup in Europe was carried out despite the fact that the number of Soviet medium-range missiles was reduced to a level of 15 years standing. In this context there are few reasons to be optimistic about the near future. On the other hand it has become still clearer that there is a need to stop this dangerous process. There is hardly anybody who would sincerely believe that those 236 new American missiles have fostered somebody's security. We here in the Soviet Union are convinced that greater security and stability can be promoted only through broader cooperation, through reducing the level of military confrontation and nuclear stockpiles. All European nations big and small can contribute to this cause, acting collectively or individually.

The Soviet Union and Britain could do much to make the world a safer place by the end of the year.

Europe was the birthplace of the relaxation of tension in which Britain has played a major role. There are no grounds to say that Britain has benefited by the attempts to torpedo the relaxation of tension, or that it would lose something if it fully restores its political, trading, and cultural relations with the USSR. The Soviet Union has been keeping its doors open.

It's clear that quicker progress towards the relaxation of tension would improve the situation in Europe. Last year several chances were missed to achieve one of the most important and most easily achievable goals in the cause of curbing the arms race, namely an overall stop to nuclear testing. London has followed the example of Washington and refused to join the Soviet moratorium on all nuclear tests. An excellent opportunity to apply effective brakes on the arms race has been missed.

The obedience of the British leaders must have been appreciated in Washington, but this is Britain's only gain, if it can be called a gain. In any case, it is smaller than the benefits Britain would get should nuclear disarmament begin. A stop to nuclear tests would become a serious obstacle in the way of developing ever new types of weapons of mass destruction, and with time make the existing nuclear arsenals outdated.

This year would become a historic milestone if Britain and the Soviet Union, together with the United States, resume negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban, which broke up after the United States staged a walkout and take them to a successful outcome; the more so since verification, an argument so frequently used by the adversaries of a nuclear test ban treaty is no longer a problem. The only obstacle is Washington's determination to go ahead with its nuclear buildup and take weapons into space.

The British Government has been following in Washington's footsteps despite the opinion of its people. Eighty percent of the British people are in favor of stopping nuclear weapon tests. We are confident that the more countries come out against "star wars," the better for world peace. Should Britain, a country with centuries-old political traditions, join its voice to the chorus of condemnation, it'll be easier to ban weapons from space. In case weapons are put in space, the security of people in the Soviet Union, Britain, and the United States would lessen it. The benefits that have been promised to British monopolies in exchange for participation in the "star wars" program cannot justify this risk.

What is more, there is no indication that the Americans are going to share orders and profits with anybody. The conservative government policy being what it is, all I've just said about possible actions by the Soviet Union and Britain for European security must have sounded fantastic. The Soviet national daily IZVESTIYA has said that Britain's rulers have never failed to obey orders from Washington, which as is known, has (?never) ordered broader cooperation and understanding in Europe.

And so only collective efforts can strengthen security. Something has to be done. The British Government as a first step could make a more serious approach to the search for points of agreement between the two countries. This search does not require abandoning the Atlantic solidarity, something Britain has placed before many other things. It could act in a way that would persuade others. The Soviet Union, unlike the United States, believes that should the military and strategic balance be upset in anybody's favor, world peace and security would become less stable. Only joint actions can bring about a lasting world peace and security. And let's hope that Britain and the United States this year show greater understanding of today's realities.

FURTHER REPORTAGE, COMMENTARY ON U.S.-LIBYAN TENSIONS

ICO Conference Condemnation

LD082329 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Fes, January 8 TASS -- TASS correspondents Anatoliy (?Druzhinin and Igor Myakishev) report:

A conference of the foreign ministers of the states, members of the Islamic Conference Organisation, is (?in session') in Fes, Morocco. Representatives of more than 40 (?Muslim) countries have got [words indistinct] discussion of the situation in the Middle East [words indistinct] discussion of the situation in the Middle East [words indistinct].

The conference strongly criticised American imperialism's aggressive course, specifically U.S. direct threats against Libya. The communique, which was adopted by the participants in the Fes meeting expresses full solidarity with the Libyan people, firm support of their struggle in defence of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. The document draws attention of the international community to the continuing provocations and step up hostile actions of American imperialism and Zionism against Libya. [sentence as received] It stresses that this aggressive policy gravely imperils peace and security in the world. The participants in the conference believe that threats against Libyan Jamahiriyah are threats levelled against all Muslim countries, the communique stresses.

Secretary of the People's Bureau for Libya's external relations 'Ali Abd al-Salam al-Turayki has expressed satisfaction with the fact that the communique was passed in Fes. Speaking of a possible armed aggression against Libya by the United States and Israel he stressed the determination of the Libyan people to befittingly rebuff that aggression. The secretary of the People's Bureau said that the United States which supports Israel and which conducts the Policy of state terrorism, is the main enemy of Arab and Muslim peoples. Libya, he told the TASS correspondents, is not afraid of sanctions, threats and terror on the part of Washington which dislikes its independent anti-imperialist course. It intends to continue rendering assistance to the national liberation struggle of peoples. 'Ali Abd al-Salam al-Turayki highly appraised the Soviet Union's firm support of Arab countries. We thank the friendly Soviet Union which consistently supports us in the struggle against imperialist and Zionist designs.

Baghdad January 8 TASS -- According to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Iraq submitted a draft resolution on the Iranian-Iraqi armed conflict for consideration of the participants in the Fes conference of the foreign ministers of the countries, members of the Islamic Conference Organisation. The draft resolution calls for immediate cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of troops of both sides to international frontiers and settlement of the conflict through peaceful means on the basis of the international law. A representative of the Iraqi delegation in Fes stressed that further continuation of the war created a grave threat to security and peace in the region.

Libya Target of Attacks

OW081324 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Jan 86

[Yuriy Ulyanov commentary; from the Novosti newscast]

[Text] The United States and Israel continue to generate a violent campaign of threats against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. A word from our correspondent:

[Ulyanov] Hello, comrades. As you know, the reason for this rampant hysteria were the recent terrorist acts at airports in Rome and Vienna. However, its aim is quite obvious: To prepare Western public opinion with the help of the mass media for possible overt aggression against a state which allegedly supports terrorists.

The fact that the Libyan Jamahiriyah has repeatedly condemned acts of terrorism and encoachments against the lives of innocent people is not taken into consideration in the United States. However, the reasons for the current anti-Libyan campaign do not lie in these explanations which are being used in an attempt to mislead world opinion.

First of all, by pursuing an independent and self-reliant foreign policy course Libya has, in Washington's opinion, taken the wrong path. Second, the U.S. and Israeli attempt to ignite a new hotbed of tension in the Mediterranean blends in an elementary way with the overall global policy of world imperialism aimed against any improvement in the international situation.

If it were not Libya, another pretext would be found. Historic experience has shown that every time a relaxation of the political climate has been possible, certain forces in the United States cast all prudence aside simply to plunge the world back into a state of mobile equilibrium. Now, when as a result of the summit meeting a glimmer of hope for a better future has appeared from Geneva, imperialism has initiated an attack against the cause of peace, choosing Libya for its current target.

The Libyan people are fully resolved to rebuff the aggressor. The entire Arab world is with Libya. The U.S. and Israeli threats have been condemned by the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace and the Committee of Soviet Women. On behalf of 137 million Soviet working people a protest against the provocative anti-Libyan campaign has been expressed by the AUCCTU.

TWO SYRIAN CITIZENS TRAINING FOR SPACE FLIGHT

PM071007 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jan 86 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Preparing for Flight"]

[Text] Two Syrian citizens -- Munir Habib and Muhammad Faris -- will be joining the 12th international crew whose training has already begun at Zvezdny Gorodok.

Muhammad is 34 and his colleague, Munir, 32.

The future conquerors of space expressed deep satisfaction at their joint work with Soviet researchers. During training, they reported, our Soviet friends supply us with the necessary theoretical and practical assistance. The atmosphere of friendship and cooperation in the Yuriy Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center and the successful progress of our training work make us confident that we will carry out our space mission successfully.

Muhammad Faris and Munir Habib wished the Soviet and Syrian peoples and all the peoples of the world a happy new year. They pointed out that 1986, which has been declared International Peace Year, must really become a period for mankind's further progress and prosperity, the easing of international tension, and the elimination of the threat of war.

SECOND BRUTENTS SEMINAR EXAMINES MIDEAST

GF071428 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 6 Jan 86 pp 12-14

["Seminar" with Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, participated in by Jasim al-Mutawwi', editor in chief of AL-WATAN; Burjus al-Burjus, director general of KUNA; Jasim al-Qatami, member of Kuwaiti National Assembly; Ahmad al-Nasifi, editor of the weekly magazine AL-TALI'AH; Dr Mawdi al-Humud, professor of economics of Kuwait University; Dr Ma'sumah; Dawud Musa'id (mayor of the City of Kuwait); and Ahmad Bahbahani (secretary of the journalists' union); -- date not given]

[Text] Jasim al-Mutawwi': AL-WATAN is pleased to welcome those taking part in this seminar. AL-WATAN also welcomes Dr Karen Brutents sho is visiting us in accordance with an agreement between AL-WATAN and APN on cooperation between the media and on the exchange of visits to strengthen relations between our two institutions.

AL-WATAN wanted the participants to be official and popular figures as well as personalities from the media, so that various views and ideas will be voiced and we can benefit from them. Thus we can learn at first hand about Arab-Soviet relations through discussions with high-ranking Soviet officials, and learn from them the Soviet view on developments in the Arab world.

This seminar, or discussion, was preceded by an earlier seminar that was published in AL-WATAN. In the first seminar, questions were asked by editors of AL-WATAN and were clearly and precisely answered by Dr Brutents. We wanted this seminar to be different from the earlier AL-WATAN seminar, as the first seminar was more like a press conference: questions were asked by AL-WATAN and were answered willingly by Dr Brutents. In this seminar, we want to hear all the views and ideas which the brothers want to voice about Arab-Soviet or Gulf-Soviet relations, or about various world events and the Soviet view on them.

I do not want to speak too long. I hope our discussion will be fruitful and equal to the level of the participants, all of whom are of importance and enjoy prestige.

Burjus al-Burjus: We would like Dr Brutents, who is well aware of many political issues, to answer my question about the Soviet Union's position toward the Afghan issue. I have previously prepared an article about Afghanistan since the first agreement between the Afghan state and Britain in 1838. I don't want to go back to the past, because the issue under discussion concerns the Soviet Union's position toward Afghanistan and the media campaign in the West concerning the presence of Soviet military forces in Afghanistan. In their view the Soviet say that there are threats to Afghanistan and that the Soviet Union is committed to the defense of Afghanistan, because it interfered at the request of the present government. However, the only justification for the presence of the Soviet troops is the protection of the Soviet Union's borders and not the Afghan border.

Karen Brutents: This is your view.

Al-Burjus: I base this view on the information which I have collected from various views, including the Soviet view.

Brutents: Is this the only justification for the presence of our troops in Afghanistan?

Al-Burjus: Yes, it is the only justification. I also have some other information. In 1978, many Soviet officials at various levels in a number of Soviet republics were asked: Why doesn't the Soviet Union go to help the Lebanese? The Soviets answered: No one has asked us to do so officially. Therefore, we do not want to interfere in the local affairs. Of course, the Lebanese Government has not made such a request. Moreover, concerning Syria, the Soviets say that they do not want to interfere and encourage Syria to enter into a war with Israel, because they do not want a confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States. This implies a contradiction in the Soviet positions. It is known that a Syrian territory is occupied by Israel. In addition to that, there is an agreement for joint cooperation between the two sides. The question is: How can we understand the Soviet position toward these three different issues -- Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Syria?

Brutents: I don't see a position by the Soviet Union toward these three examples. I don't know what you mean by making links between these three subjects. It is difficult for me to judge who has requested us and where and when, but allow me to make a statement on that by myself. In order not to be unfair with anyone, who was behind these statements? So that we do not blame each other I say: We had not previously said and we will not say in the future that we sent limited troops to Afghanistan to protect our borders. We are saying something different.

As is known, a revolution broke out in that country in 1978. I would like to remind you that we had very good relations with Afghanistan during the rule of Zahir Shah and Daoud. A revolution then occured in April. I do not want to repeat that we did not interfere in the revolution and I do not want to go into the details of the revolution. However, I say that the revolution was a surprise to us. The revolution occured in the country very late and that is why not all responded to it satisfactorily. Then, the situation began to deteriorate gradually for two reasons -- first, as I said, the revolution took place in the country very late and was not understood and accepted by all inside, and second, other forces which were outside the borders of the Afghan state did not recognize the revolution.

What about our position? A revolution took place in a country that borders our country. The revolution brought to power a regime that was better than the previous one and began to achieve better social accomplishments. We, in the Soviet Union, are interested in the revolution. Pakistan has not accepted this revolution, because it contradicts certain trends required by certain circles in the region. These circles feared the influence of the revolution on them, since then interference began. I mean the armed interference by Pakistan. It would have been easier if Pakistan interfered alone, but there are others behind it. I mean the United States. Of course, all revolutions wherever they take place, confront many difficulties. This is the law of social evolution.

However, the Kabul government gradually ran the rule in the country and gradually controlled the situation. Of course, this was not done without mistakes. In our view, mistakes greatly and deeply complicated the situation. Due to this complicated and critical situation the Kabul government was forced to resort to our country by requesting our assistance. It did so several times, not to maintain the new government in Kabul, but to protect the revolution. I am sorry to repeat what I have said. The government requested assistance from us more than once. Of course, we were not pleased with the interference requested by the revolution's government, but after the requests continued and after the situation worsened and deteriorated we were forced to accept the request of the government and interfered. Thus, the first and basic reason for our interference was to save the revolution and the deteriorating situation there. Our interference was to maintain the revolution and help it.

This is not the first time that the Soviet Union has protected revolutions in the region of around the world when officially asked to do so.

It is logical to interfere to maintain a revolution. I repeat that it was not an easy matter for us. As is known, we had national interests in the past and we have national interests at present and will have national interests in the future. We did not wish at any time and will not wish at any time to see a regime hostile to us in this country. What is strange about that?

Thus, intervention was made through internationalist solidarity with the revolution in Afghanistan to protect our national interests in a country which borders us, but not just to protect our borders. Thus the two points were in harmony, the first to express solidarity with the revolution and defend it, the second to protect our national interests. This is history. What concerns us and others is the present, not history. The present concerns us all.

Nevertheless, when we intervened in that country, military provocations and interventions from outside did not cease. Rather, interventions in Afghanistan's internal affairs increased and were aggravated. To promote these foreign military interventions, there are more than 100 camps in Pakistan alone and more than 30 camps in Iran. These camps train Afghan counterrevolutionaries and send them to Afghanistan. Things have not stopped at this point. Money is also flowing for this purpose. A group of parasitical Afghan people rose who filled their pockets with money at the expense of simple Afghans. Thus Afghanistan and its issue became one of the most inflammable and tense spots in the world.

As Mikhail Gorbachev announced, the USSR is ready to resolve this issue politically. We have announced and indicated on more than one occasion that we do not intend to keep our forces there forever, as they say. We want a political settlement to this issue. We are also ready to review this issue. The Afghan Government is also ready for such a settlement and for bargaining. The Kabul Government has taken steps in this direction. In addition to enhancing its achievements in social progress, the government announced its readiness to negotiate with counterrevolutionary elements to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis. The recent Cabinet reshuffle brought new faces to the government. These faces have no relationship with the party ruling there. If this trend receives the acquiescence of other forces and if these circles cease to interfere in Afghanistan, the Afghan problem will come to an end and a peaceful settlement will be reached. If these forces, which have declared war against Afghanistan, understand the situation and stop their interference, we on our part, will not delay the withdrawal of our military forces for one moment. There is a well established fact -- We view every issue from all aspects. I believe it will be very useful if Kuwait plays the role of mediator in this regard or if it urges the U.S. and Pakistani sides to agree to the settlements which we and the Afghan Government have proposed. This will pave the way toward a peaceful settlement for the overall Afghan issue.

Kuwait can play this role by demanding that all military interventions in Afghan internal affairs be stopped. I am not saying that Kuwait must exercise such pressures on Iran, as they will not quite be fruitful during the current circumstances. Of course, when I name Kuwait, I do not mean that Kuwait should go about it unilaterally. Other Arab countries can mediate or exert pressure on the Pakistani and U.S. sides to put an end to military intervention in Afghanistan. However, they are doing the opposite, as some Arab media are working to continue foreign interventions.

The invitation to stop foreign intervention is not only extended to Arab countries, but to all of our allies and friends, the world public opinion, and any side which does not exploit the Afghan issues against us to increase the world tension. In my opinion, all the aforementioned sides can -- to a certain extent -- play an effective role and exert pressure on the United States and Pakistan to put an end to foreign interference from all sides and sit down at the negotiating table to arrive at a peaceful solution and end the Afghan crisis.

However, regretably, this has not happened. On the contrary, some have traveled far upstream and exploited the Afghan issue against the Soviets. I would like to add that we can exchange views on the Afghan issue and we may agree on one detailed issue or another. It is logical that some of our views may not be identical. They may even be different on the Afghan issue. However, if we all understand that the Soviet Union does not wish to keep its forces in Afghanistan forever and that it is trying to obtain peaceful solutions, I shall consider my visit to Kuwait as successful.

Jasim al-Mutawwa': We thank Dr Brutents for his important participation, which clarified a number of points on Afghanistan. We will move to Jasim al-Gatami, member of the Kuwaiti National Assembly and one of the prominent political and social personalities in our country. Al-Gatami is one of the founders of the patriotic movement in Kuwait.

Al-Gatami: First of all, I would like to thank our AL-WATAN brothers because AL-WATAN has been continuously considered a lantern for the liberation movements in our Arab countries. It continually takes the initiative to vitally and bravely shed light on all of our important issues. That is why I would like to pay tribute to AL-WATAN'S stands before anything else, especially as it has provided us with the opportunity to meet the high-ranking Soviet official Dr Brutents, so that we can hold dialogues with him on the region's problems.

We are proud of the Soviet Union's stands on the Arab issues because they are supportive of Arab rights. The Soviet Union has always been, and still is, a friend to the Arab nation, be it at international organizations such as the United Nations, the UN Security Council, or others, or providing aid and offering arms for Arab countries.

We take pride in the Soviet Union's stand because through its support we can confront the aggressive U.S.-Israeli policy in our Arab region. We hope that this support will increase and strengthen in the interest of our countries and people in general. I hope those in the Soviet Union will distinguish between the stands of the Arab people and governments. While the Arab people take pride in and value the Soviet Union's stands, some Arab governments do not because they do not represent their people.

Now we come to the topics on which we do not have any information, concerning the discussions at the superpowers summit in Geneva between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev, including the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, the Iraq-Iran war, and Soviet relations with the Gulf countries including Kuwait. There exists another question, also, on the fate of the Syrian missiles and the Israeli-imperialist campaigns against them. On these issues, I would like to hear the opinion of Dr Brutents.

Brutents: First of all, I would like to say that the main issue on the agenda of negotiations between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan was the disarmament issue. I must refer to the work schedule proposed by the U.S. side -- as you know -- whereby the regional issues would be given priority over the essential issues.

By regional issues, I mean issues which seemed auxiliary or of secondary importance. When the U.S. side proposed the so-called regional issues, it did not mention the Middle East issue, because the Americans know well that if they did, we would have discussed with them the piracy policy adopted by Israel through its continued aggression against Arab countries.

Therefore, they included in their work schedule the so-called regional issues -- which, I stress, were not complete or comprehensive. As I said, they did that to overshadow the essential and fundamental issues including disarmament, and end to the arms race, most importantly the militarization of space. When we foiled this U.S. plan, we did not mean that we do not want to discuss regional issues. On the contrary, we wanted to discuss them, just as the essential and fundamental issues. Our stand was based on trying to expose the intentions of the U.S. circles to divert the Geneva summit from its radical aims to put an end to the crazy arms race, especially in space.

From this room and from this window you cannot see what happens in space. However, you can imagine what would happen if space is militarized and arms hang in the space around us. Let us take this imagination to the limit and envisage what black fate might await mankind if space is militarized.

I have said in the previous seminar and I now repeat that there is a certain view in the Third World and in the Arab countries that the arms race and disarmament are issues that concern the United States and the Soviet Union alone, and are of no concern whatsoever to the Third World. Those who propound such a view are greatly mistaken, for such issues concern all of mankind. Unless we agree upon a specific formula to halt the arms race and then bring about disarmament, and if there is increased armament, and if the feverish arms race should move to space, then the earth will shake from such lethal weapons.

Therefore, to leave the question of the militarization of space to the two superpowers alone means that the protagonists of such a view do not want to shoulder the responsibility. We believe the contrary, for the fact is that Third World countries play an important role in determining the course of events in our times. It is not in vain that we have attached exceptional importance to this matter, for we have included it in the CPSU draft program that will be submitted to the 27th CPSU congress.

In the draft program we have analyzed the main characteristics that move events in the world. The draft program states that the national liberation movements of the world and developing countries can play a major role in the development of events in the world, and that the effective role that can be played by the national liberation movements is a feature of our age. If the national liberation movements and the developing countries do not shoulder their historic responsibility in this matter, then what will happen to their major role?

I would like to apologize beforehand for the question that I am going to ask: Does it not concern the Arabs that there are U.S. aircraft carriers close to their shores? Are they not concerned that now there are 5 or 6 aircraft carriers, and in the future there will be 15 or more? Would it not be better if the so-called great powers reduce their arms instead of increasing them and competing in an arms race?

I have digressed from the subject of the question, and I now return to the Geneva summit: Regional issues were not discussed in detail at the Geneva summit; they were reviewed in general.

The Soviet Union established its principled stand on this issue at the Geneva summit this time as well. Briefly, the Soviet stand is that the roots of regional conflicts in any part of the world go back to imperialist -- and in particular U.S. -- interference in these region.

In light of what I have said, we did not grant any concessions to the United States at Geneva at the expense of the Arabs or the Middle East. It is impossible for such a thing to happen. However, regrettably, some journalists tried to disseminate such groundless claims.

Concerning the Palestinian question, our views have not changed and remain what they used to be, whereas the stand of some Palestinians has changed. We believed, we still believe, and we will continue to believe that the Palestinain question is the victim of the Israeli state and Zionism. We believed, and we continue to believe, that the Palestinians are entitled to all the national rights, just like all other peoples, including the right to establish an independent Palestinian state.

We also believe that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, and that the PLO has the full right to participate in any international conference on settling the Middle East crisis on an equal footing with, and with the same rights as, all the other parties to the Middle East question. Finally, we also believe that without resolving the Palestinian question, there can be no just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem.

This is our firm stand. We are now grieved by the bad state which the PLO has reached. Regrettably, time has proven that the Amman agreement has not served the interests of the Palestinians themselves. We wish we were mistaken in our assessment of the Amman agreement. If the PLO had remained united and cohesive, its position would have been much better than what it is now, for some quarters have been allowed to impose on the PLO more and more concessions.

I believe that the most important issue that faces the PLO is the restoration of its unity and strengthening it on the basis of the national principles of struggle against imperialism and Zionism. The PLO was founded on these principles, it has nurtured on these principles and became stronger as a result.

Of course, I can only extend my good wishes to the Palestinians and the PLO. I wish that the Arab nationalist forces and the Arab states would also make efforts in this direction, for by so doing they would be giving important assistance to the PLO in solving the issues facing it, and would make the Palestinians feel that they are backed by a strong side on whom they can rely.

I would like to add that we seek to bring about the normalization of relations between the PLO and Syria, because the essence of the issue entails a firm stand by Syria and the Palestinians in the face of aggression by the Zionist Israeli state.

Dr Ma'sumah Mubarak, lecturer in political science at Kuwait University: The point to which I want to refer and which was raised by Dr Brutents is how we Arabs should view U.S. aircraft carriers and warships close to our shores. Dr Brutents linked this with the arms race in the world. We view the U.S. presence in the region as a factor that increases tension, and tension in our region threatens U.S. security, and this is not due to what Dr Brutents said about the arms race. That is, our main worry is the presence of U.S. ships in our area.

Brutents: Of course I do appreciate your feelings and your view that the U.S. presence in the region is your main concern, because it increases threats against the security and the stability of the region, but I only request that you would connect the regional issues and the U.S. presence here with the issue of the armament in the world in general.

Ma'sumah: The other question is about the presence of superpowers. For example, these countries are present where they are not needed, and are not present in regions where they are supposed to be. For instance, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

Brutents: I believe that the superpowers are present where they are needed and also present where they want to be. However, sometimes such presence might be against the interests of the people of the region.

I will allow the doctor to design some examples, since she is an expert in political sciences. Perhaps some of the superpowers are present in regions where they are not supposed to be, but othere are not.

Ma'Sumah: What I am referring to is the reaction to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan where this presence is not wanted. On the other hand, there is Lebanon or the Middle East where I call upon the Soviet Union to have greater presence and potential in this region. This presence is needed by the Arab countries in their struggle against Israel and imperialism. The Kuwaiti National Assembly, as a reaction gesture, called for withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Brutents: This issue may stir various points of views. For example, Afghanistan. They say that the Soviet presence in Afghanistan is essential to maintain the revolution. They actually asked for that. Concerning the statement of the Kuwaiti Assembly, I do not wish to comment, because it concerns the Kuwaiti Assembly itself. However, I would like to ask some questions: Are these calls directed to us only, or to all the parties which interfere in Afghanistan? Can these calls be considered a way to pull one party from the struggle and to give chances for the other parties which have launched an undeclared war against Afghanistan and its revolution? If, for the sake of argument, we accepted the call, will it not mean that we would make the Afghan people an easy mouthful to be swallowed by those who want it? Will not these unilateral calls be only in the interest of those who are against Afghanistan? Is it fair to present the issue in such a way?

Does it not mean that our withdrawal will allow the imperialist powers to have a free hand in chosing a government they like and which will serve their purposes, and to establish a regime that will be against us near our borders?

Is it not strange that we have been asked to pull out from there and to go to another place you want? I think that if we did so, others would not respect us. So we call you to work to stop all kinds of foreign intervention in Afghanistan. This is the just issue which I call on you to work for and not to call only on us to pull out.

Jasim al-Gatami: There is a large group of members of the Kuwaiti National Assembly which support halting all interference in internal Afghan affairs. However, the religious movement has adopted the statement. There is a unanimity among the left, even the right, that all must take their hands of Afghanistan. We know that U.S. interference is arrogant. Nonetheless, we have asked all to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Dawud Musa'id: We are glad to welcome the doctor in Kuwait and wish that this visit will help to strengthen the relations and mutual understanding between the Arab world and the Soviet Union. This good debate with Dr Brutents acquainted us more closely with the Soviet point of view and I hope that such visits between us will recur.

Brutents: I thank the mayor. The mayor is a big and important personality, thus I agree with him that such meetings should recur. I became acquainted with the Kuwaitis drectly. They are a friendly people and we highly appreciate them.

Jasim al-Mutawwi': The words belong to Ahmad al-Nafisi, chief editor of AL-TALI'A magazine and one of the former prominent unionists who we missed this time and who we hope will have role in the upcoming deputies council.

In reality, it can be said that it is the council that missed him and that we gained him as a colleague in the press.

Ahmad al-Nafisi: First of all, I would like to thank our colleagues in AL-WATAN for giving us the chance to meet with Dr Karen Brutents, one of the most prominent officials in the Soviet Union. This visit is a new trend in the relations between us affirmed by the new leadership in the Soviet Union by way of direct contact with the people, which is something new we have not seen before.

Previously, we used to deal only with the news agencies, APN for example. We appreciate their efforts to strengthen the relations and highly appraise these direct visits so that we can become acquainted with the Soviet officials and they can become acquainted with us from close up.

In the past, the arena was concentrated on by experts who used to tour the region and bring us their "expertise" and ideas by way of media organs which transmit to us propaganda every day. However, we do not see representatives of the Soviet Union in our country, the Soviet Union with whom we have developed friendship relations.

Arab relations with the Soviet Union began during the rule of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, who established its amicable basis. In fact, since we lost 'Abd al-Nasir we have not found another Arab leader to play his role in Arab-Soviet relations. Some Arab leaders now try to conceal the truth, while in reality they want friendship with the Soviet Union to get out of their own crisis only and thus preserve their rule.

Thus, when we and the Arab people harshly criticize the friendly Soviet Union, we do so based on our love for it and our great appreciation for its just role among nations.

When some national powers criticized the Soviet Union's stance on Lebanon, they did so based on the same standards they previously explained. Thus, the Soviet Union should also fully understand our situation.

We understand the Soviet Union's stand in Afghanistan. We do not want the presence of foreign forces on the territories of another country. We know very well that the country that most of all wants to remove the Soviet forces from Afghanistan is the Soviet Union itself and that the country that most of all wants the presence of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan is the United States.

Dr Brutents confirmed the disarmament question and our interest in this question. We are in a region that is boiling with events and the question of disarmament is a very big question for us.

The Soviet Union, which has supported people and liberation movements around the world, is considered the representative of all people in the disarmament question. We support the Soviet Union's stance on this question. However we also have our own national causes to struggle for every day. How can we demand from a Palestinain citizen in the occupied West Bank to fight every day and think about disarmament? We hope that the Soviet Union will understand this cause, because we live with it every day and all the time.

Brutents: I do not mean the Palestinians, particularly the ones in the occupied territories. However the Arabs should link these local national causes and the question of disarmament. I understand your stance and causes and support you in them. I only meant linking two questions "the international and domestic".

Al-Nafisi: I do not want any confusion in our stance and the stand of the Soviet Union.

I have a small comment on the Palestinian cause. We know that the Soviet Union always supported and helped the Palestinians and stood in a just way with their ambitions. However, we also know that regretably some Palestinian sides struggle for Palestine and the Palestinian revolution less than the Soviet Union. In spite of that, we hope that the friendly Soviet Union will stand more decisively with the Palestinians and their liberation movement and with the Arab people and their national forces, even outside the framework of official Arab-Soviet cooperation.

Brutents: I understand your wishes and aspirations and agree with most of what you have said on Palestine and the Palestinians. As I have explained, our stand is intricate and clear. As concerns the international liberation movement, I believe that all liberation movements, wherever they are, get our full understanding and that we never took a neutral or indifferent stand on any one of them. It is natural for the advocates of freedom, wherever they are or however they work for the freedom of their people, to find total support and understanding from the Soviet Union.

Perhaps we should do more to help the strugglers for freedom as the saying goes "the best form for any cause is the form that has not been born yet". Anyway, I can say that it is very difficult to find any liberation movement in the world that we do not have relations with. The case is the same with the Palestinian revolution, we have relations with all of its factions and sides.

Al-Nafisi: I want to move from this subject to another one -- the Gulf war. Al-Qatami has raised it. I would like to pause for a while and ask about it. My question is, did the establishment of relations between the USSR and some Gulf countries -- Oman, Abu Dhabi, and the talk now is about Bahrain -- come as a result of an internal change in the policy of these countries toward your country or was it a move intended to achieve balance in the region? How do you, in the USSR, view this?

Brutents: My dear friend Al-Nafisi, I will give my personal view on this issue and I may be mistaken. With the passage of time, the true image of U.S. policy becomes more and more clear, as well as the illusions which some Arab circles built on this policy. Some were hoping for a change in the U.S. policy toward the Arabs and their just causes and that the United States would begin to understand the Arabs' causes gradually. It becomes clear that this was a mere illusion and imagination. The second illusion is based on the conviction of some people that the United States possesses all the cards to settle the Middle East issue and that the key to resolve these inflammable issues is in its hands alone. Time proved that this "conviction" is also wrong.

Let us take Kuwait as an example. We have diplomatic relations and relations in other fields with Kuwait. These relations are wide and advanced and are 22 years old. Time has proven that our relations with your country are serving the Kuwaiti and Soviet peoples at the same time.

What is being circulated about Moscow's interference in this region are mere absurdities and fabrications and nothing else. My visit to Kuwait proved to me and to you at the same time that we are people like you, that we can reach an understanding with you, and that we can sit and talk together with full, free, and independent views and principles. It also became clear to you that we are ordinary people and love the Arabs and who talk to them as man to man. Therefore, these allegations which say that no understanding can be reached with the Soviets and that the Soviets cannot be talked to or dealt with failed to achieve their drawn goals. Our relations with Kuwait are evidence of this.

However, there are people who are not pleased about our good and multi-sided relations with Kuwait, which are serving the two sides. I have heard the story of the professor at Kuwait University who told his students that "the Soviet goes to work in the morning and in the evening he does not know which house he goes to," meaning free women in our country. I did not wait for the one who told me the story to finish it. I interrupted him saying "Did not the professor also say that we have tails?"

Jasim al-Mutawwi': The question now is for Dr Mawdi al-Humud, a professor of economics at Kuwait University.

Dr Mawdi al-Humud: In fact, I missed part of the seminar because I came late. I have two questions. Before asking these questions, I ask Dr Brutents not to answer them if they have already been covered. The first is related to the USSR's solidarity with the Palestinian issue. It is known that the USSR's stand on this cause is good and just. However, I would like to ask about facilitating the emigration of Jews from the USSR to Israel, as it is being circulated by the media, and also about the resumption of USSR-Israeli relations.

Brutents: Excuse me because my answer about this issue will be very brief, because I talked about this at length. No harm done. I will repeat myself, although I am not an "actor" and consequently I am not good at "repetition." The Jews in the USSR have equal rights and obligations in all aspects before the law, like other nationalities living in my country. A Jew can emigrate if his travel will reunite his family. Only in this case will he can be allowed to travel. Among those who are not allowed to travel abroad is the Soviet Jew who is privy to the state's secrets and anyone who has served in the Soviet Army and has been released only recently because he is also privy to some Army secrets. In other words, a Jew is not allowed to travel if his travel affects the rights of others, like when a breadwinner wants to leave his old parents. This is the rule and it has never been broken. Emigration from the USSR now has dropped compared to that in the past. However, those who wanted to travel, travelled.

This uproar is made by some party and has been completely planned by another party. The purpose of this is to cloud USSR-Arab relations and to undermine in one way or another these good relations which do not please those who are behind the furor.

It is understood why the West makes this uproar. They have their own goals -- to undermine USSR-Arab relations. But the question which imposes itself is: Why do the Arabs follow these false campaigns? An example of this is what is going on in the minds of the Arabs everywhere. They asked about it in Syria and in Jordan and you, in Kuwait, are asking me about it. I apologize for being frank with you to the point of being critical.

Why do you accept such an uproar? You the Arabs, it was better for you to follow this issue carefully. Once they told you: The Jews will leave the Soviet Union after 2 months. Since that time you have been busy with the matter. Two months have passed and no one immigrated. Then they came up with a new uproar and mentioned imaginary figures that increase day by day, and you repeat them. Since I arrived here I began to read about this issue in the Western press. I found the issue published in the latest edition of TIME magazine.

(Brutents reached out for his briefcase and brought out the latest edition of TIME and read in English.) The Transportation of Soviet Jews to Israel.

(It is known that Brutents speaks Russian, Armenian, English, and French and understands various other European languages.)

The article was written as follows: the first part begins with a report on alleged Jewish immigration. It explains this matter in detail, and at the end concludes by saying: but named sources deny it. Then anew the article gives dates of the immigration process and the number of the immigrants, and anew it denies what it has mentioned earlier, and thus goes the article to the end.

(Brutents showed the participants other topics he underlined.) They talk about Jaruzelski and Mitterrand and deny what they have said, then about other things and then deny them. (Brutents reads from the article.) Arab and western diplomatic sources in Moscow have affirmed news that a bridge will be established between Moscow and Israel to transport Jews there.

I would like to ask my friends the Arabs the following: Why do you not read the article in TIME as it has been published by the Western propaganda? To explain my question I say: Some of the Arab papers, among them Kuwaiti papers, published the part of the article which mentions the confirmation of the immigration of the Jews without publishing the denial which follows at the end of each part of the TIME articles. In other words, some go beyond what is needed by the Eastern propaganda itself. Therefore I possess all the bases which enable me to criticize you. I would like to express my personal point of view: Why do you follow these deceptive uproars? What is it to the Arabs if 800 Jews leave the Soviet Union, when 70 percent out of them will head to the United States or other European countries? What does this figure mean to the wide relations between the Soviet Union and the Arabs?

Al-Burjus (jokingly): Eight hundred thirty-two

Brutents (laughing): I meant last year [1984]. This year [presumably 1985] only 700 Jews have emigrated -- 100 Jews less than last year. That is why I said 800. (Laughter in the hall)

Mudi al-Humud: Dr Brutents has earlier talked about political relations between the Soviet Union and the Gulf countries, especially Kuwait. What about cultural relations between our two countries?

Brutents: Twenty-two years have elapsed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between us. In more than 2 decades our relations have passed the test of time. We in the Soviet Union respect and value the Kuwaiti people. Once again, I emphasize the words "we respect" the Kuwaiti people.

This is because although they are small in number and live in a small country, the Kuwaiti people are strong willed and love freedom and independence. Therefore, they are respected and valued by all.

When I visited your country, Kuwait, as I came to know your people at first hand and spent all that time among my Kuwaiti friends, my respect for your people increased. As I lived with the Kuwaitis and came to know them well, I came to realize where the roots of the policy of the Kuwaiti state lie -- that independent, peace-loving, freedom-loving, and nonaligned policy that is based on independent decisionmaking. The roots of this stable and balanced policy lie in the personality of the Kuwaitis; it is their characteristic. I also realized that it is this feature that distinguishes Kuwaitis which has secured such a good state policy.

The mutually beneficial relations of cooperation between our two states include almost all sectors. I am fully confident that these relations will develop and strengthen at a very fast rate.

As for cultural relations, they are very important because they are a form of communication among people and are mutually beneficial. A few days ago I visited 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn [adivser to the amir of Kuwait] where I met with some Kuwaiti intellectuals and notables. I was impressed by the standard of culture of these friends who can talk about all aspects of life.

With regard to cultural relations in the broader sense, we in the Soviet Union have something to contribute to the Kuwaiti friends so that they can acquaint themselves with the cultural creativeness of the various peoples of the Soviet Union. You also will find things you want to present to the Soviets so that they can know your culture and your country's civilization. I have information that indicates that both the Soviet Union and Kuwait are looking for new means and other facilities to develop and strengthen economic cooperation between them for their mutual benefit.

In the CPSU draft program, which will be submitted to the 27th CPSU Congress for approval, we emphasized that the national liberation movements of the world and developing countries -- among which is Kuwait -- play a basic role in determining the course of events and this is a characteristic of our age. Kuwait can play such a role as that to which we referred in the draft program.

Jasim al-Mutawwi': It is for Ahmad Bahbahani, secretary of the Journalists Association to ask his question. Bahbahani is the first to arrive and the last to ask.

Ahmad Bahbahani: I would like to ask about the Soviet stand on the Iraq-Iran war. How was the Soviet Union able to satisfy both belligerents: Following Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's visit to Moscow it was reported that the visit was very successful. They [the Iraqis] praised the visit and stated that they got what they wanted from Moscow. At the same time, the Iranian side is satisfied with the Soviet stand -- according to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent statements.

Brutents: It would be better to address such a question to both Iran and Iraq. Of course, Mr Bahbahani has pleased me with this new Iranian stand. When the Iraqi president was in Moscow he criticized the stand of the party that wants to carry on with the war until the end, until victory. Perhaps in Tehran they were happy with such a stand. Perhaps there has been a change in the Iranian stand.

But seriously -- although Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks are interesting -- I say: We are neutral vis-a-vis the two belligerents in this senseless war, this mad war. However, we are not neutral with regard to the war itself, because we know that it serves imperialist interests. We believe that it is a senseless war because it has reached an impasse. According to military experts there is no victor in this war. We are neutral vis-a-vis either side with regard to its stand on the war.

Jasim al-Mutawwi': Thank you for being present and for the fruitful discussion you held with Dr Karen Brutents. We hope that such meetings and discussions that explain the Soviet view on many issues will continue. Such meetings and discussions acquire great importance in a climate that is spoiled and controlled by Western propaganda, particularly in our area.

There is no doubt that Dr Brutents's answers will help to clarify the Soviet view on many issues of interest to the Arab reader and to Arab public opinion. There is no doubt that this seminar and the earlier AL-WATAN seminar will leave a good impression on Arab public opinion as well as world public opinion, in view of the great importance of the statements made as they emanate from a senior Soviet official. We hope that there will be more such meetings in the future. We also thank the colleagues in APN who effectively contributed to the realization of AL-WANTAN's initiative by inviting Dr Brutents to visit Kuwait and the AL-WATAN newspaper. Once again, I thank you all for your contribution, and I thank Dr Brutents for his clear and comprehensive answers to your questions.

Dr Karen Brutents: I also would like to extend my thanks on my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues here to AL-WATAN, and to all of you for the great hospitality and warm welcome you accorded to us in your friendly country. You can be sure that we appreciate it. I say to you frankly: I was pleased to know you and know your country. I hope that there will be further meetings.

I agree with my friend Jasim -- and from now on I will discard formalities and call him my friend Jasim -- that there is no doubt that such meetings help in dissipating the fog created by Western propaganda to undermine relations between us. Thank you.

OPENING OF U.S.-ANGOLAN TALKS ON NAMIBIA VOTED

LD082151 Moscow TASS in English 2135 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Luanda, January 8 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Semenov and Aleksandr Budris report:

The Anglon-U.S. talks on the situation in the south of the African Continent opened here today. The Angolan delegation at the talks is led by Alexandre Duarte Rodrigues, a member of the Politbureau of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] - Workers' Party Central Committee and internal minister of the People's Republic of Angola, the U.S. delegation -- by Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Africa.

A report by the Angolan External Relations Ministry says that centre-piece to the talks will be the discussion of the fulfillment of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 on granting independence to Namibia. The U.S. delegation was received today by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Workers' Party and president of Angola.

The fact of the presence of the U.S. delegation in Angola is an expression of the Angolan people's good will towards the U.S. people and a demonstration of the policy of peace pursued by the People's Republic of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos said during the meeting. However, we do not know, the Angolan leader said, how to regard the forthcoming visit of Jonas Savimbi to the United States and aid which the United States Government is going to provide to UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola]. This is likely to be regarded as a means of bringing pressue to bear on our country or an open declaration of war on Angola.

Despite the aggressiveness and intervention in the internal affairs of Angola on the part of definite U.S. political forces, Angola did not declare a war on the United States and did not suspend business relations with that country, Jose Eduardo dos Santos stressed. But the People's Republic of Angola is a sovereign state and it will never relinquish its rights and forsake the principles on which its foreign policy is based. In case of new acts of aggression, Angola will again appeal for aid to the international community, above all its friends -- the Soviet Union, Cuba and other socialist countries, so as to uphold its independence and territorial integrity.

We strive to achieve a just and enduring peace in the south of Africa through the fulfillment of Resolution 435 of the U.N. Security Council. Angola is prepared for a constructive dialogue to work out a comprehensive agreement which would ensure independence for Namibia and security for the People's Republic of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos said.

CUBA'S GROWING INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE EXAMINED

PM081507 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 85 Morning Edition p 5

[Ye. Bay article under general heading "1 January -- A National Holiday in the Republic of Cuba": Contours of the Future"]

[Excerpts] Havana -- Having battled across the entire island from east to west, 27 years ago the insurgent columns of the legendary commandantes Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos entered Havana. All the world's newspapers reported the fall of the U.S. Batista regime in Cuba on the first day of 1959. Now, looking at yellowed newspaper cuttings, one thinks: At that time few could have imagined that the beacon of socialism, pointing the way to the future for liberated countries, would be lit on a small tropical island in the Western hemisphere, a former semicolony of the United States.

Today the Cuban people are summing up their country's development during the past 5 years. In just over a month's time, the Third Cuban Communist Party Congress will open in Havana, and the entire country is actively preparing for it. Last year, 1985, was important for the republic with regard to strengthening its economy and raising the population's living standards. Looking back over the past year, I would particularly like to single out the successes achieved by Cuba on the foreign policy front. They clearly demonstrated the country's growing recognition on the Latin American continent and throughout the world, and also revealed the utter failure of imperialist attempts to isolate the Island of Freedom.

April saw a visit to Havana by Ecuadorean President Leon Febres-Cordero -- the first visit by the president of this Latin American country since the victory of the Cuban Revolution. In October, diplomatic (and several months prior to this -- trade) relations were restored with Uruguay. In June, Cuba joined the Latin American parliament. Comrade F. Castro termed this event a "total defeat for imperialism" and expressed profound satisfaction and gratitude to the Latin American countries for this "evidence of trust" in his country.

Of course, in many ways this recognition is connected with the fact that in a number of Latin American countries mercenary military regimes have been replaced by democratic governments, but Cuba's merits and its diplomacy are very important. The country has shown, not in words but in deeds, that in difficult periods for countries on the continent it goes to their assistance without hesitation.

More than a quarter of a century has passed since the United States declared an economic blockade of Cuba and unleashed an out-and-out propaganda war against it. Since then, Washington has never ceased its malicious slander campaign. Just as at the beginning of the sixties, Cuba is still accused of "exporting revolution," of attempting to "destabilize democratic governments," and so forth. Where once they were under their northern neighbor's thumb, the Latin American states now regard Washington's propaganda postulates with unconcealed skepticism. It is not the "export of terrorism" but support for democratic processes, not "interference" but respect for people's right to decide their destiny, not "destabilization" but active assistance to unite broad strata of the population that the Latin American countries see in Cuban policy.

This policy has acquired particularly clear outlines with regard to Central American problems. Sharing Managua's concern over the possibility of direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, last year Havana made the most strenuous efforts to preserve peace in Central America. Cuba's free shipment to the people of Nicaragua of a large agro-industrial complex for the production of sugar was seen on the continent as profound evidence of its solidarity with the Sandinist revolution.

Cuba's growing prestige was also apparent during visits to Havana last year by the leaders of countries holding key positions in the Nonaligned Movement -- Algeria, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, India, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka. The bonds of friendship linking Cuba with these countries were deepened during the talks, and gratitude to Havana for its active support of people's struggle against colonialism and racism was stressed.

The 10 million Cubans consider it their vital duty to give international assistance to countries struggling against imperialism. A quarter of a century ago, the Island of Freedom was able to stand its ground and triumph only thanks to the fact that the Soviet Union offered it a friendly shoulder.

The Cubans always sense this reliable support. On New Year's Eve I managed to visit many of the country's provinces. You should have seen the warm gratitude with which the Cubans received the assistance that our country gave them in overcoming, as rapidly as possible, the consequences of the destructive hurricane "Kate," which had swept the island. Many hundreds of people came to Soviet representative bodies to express gratitude to the fraternal people.

The past year has made a considerable contribution to further strengthening relations between our two countries. Coordination of long-term economic plans and, in particular, the adoption of the Comprehensive Program for the Scientific and Technical Progress of the CEMA Countries through the Year 2000 will give new impetus to fruitful cooperation between Cuba and the socialist states. The importance of this program, the newspaper GRANMA recently wrote, "is so great that one can confidently call it the directive of a qualitatively new stage in the development of the community states."

An equal member of the community, the Republic of Cuba strives to actively utilize the experience of developed socialism, which is supported by the achievements of scientific and technical progress. Beginning with the anniversary of the revolution, the new year will be an important step along this path.